Hafa Adai!

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'Propst is all talk, but does nothing for retirees' bonuses' PAGE 7

$1

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2nd boosters now available

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said yesterday that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has already approved second booster shots, and these are now available for CNMI residents.

According to Dr. Lily Muldoon, CHCC Public Health medical director, this new round of booster shots is strictly for those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

"This has been approved by the CDC for people who are on cancer treatment, are organ transplant recipients, or who are on HIV or immunosuppressive drugs like high-dose corticosteroids. Those are the people that are considered to be moderately or severely immunocompromised and should work with their healthcare provider to get their [additional] dose," she said.

Individuals who fall under these categories, Muldoon said, will only be eligible for their second round of boost-

See 2ND on Page 4

ASH WEDNESDAY
Bishop Ryan Jimenez, right, of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa makes the mark of the cross using ashes on the forehead of a parishioner during the Catholic Church observance of Ash Wednesday yesterday at Mount Carmel Cathedral. The occasion marks the Christian tradition of the first day of Lent.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THAAD remote launcher to be deployed to Rota

The U.S. military will be deploying a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense Remote Launch package on Rota, reportedly as part of an exercise.

In a news release yesterday, it said the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and Joint Region Marianas will be deploying a THAAD Remote Launch package to the Rota International Airport in the CNMI this early March. That "package" will include one THAAD launcher and associated personnel and equipment. It was not clear how many military personnel will be headed for Rota.

A *Guam Daily Post* report said the deployment is just part of an exercise and will just be for a week.

THAAD is an American anti-ballistic missile defense

See THAAD on Page 4

COVID update: 174 new cases; 9 hospitalized

As of March 1, 2022, there were nine individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: one unvaccinated, seven vaccinated, and one partially vaccinated

Also, 174 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 9,724 cases since March 26, 2020.

Of the 174 cases identified on Feb. 28, 2022, a total of were identified on Tinian and 10 on Rota. The vaccination statuses of the 174 cases are pending verification.

See COVID on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:30pm, March 2, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated:	57%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	38,036
Fully Vaccinated:	37,185
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,336
Fully Vaccinated:	5,199
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,140
Additional Dose:	21,276

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	44,846	226	45,072
Recovered	41,133	58	41,191
Active	3,235	226	3,551
Deaths	30	0	330

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9,550	174	9,724
Recovered	8,752	215	8,967
Active	553	174	727
Deaths	30	0	30

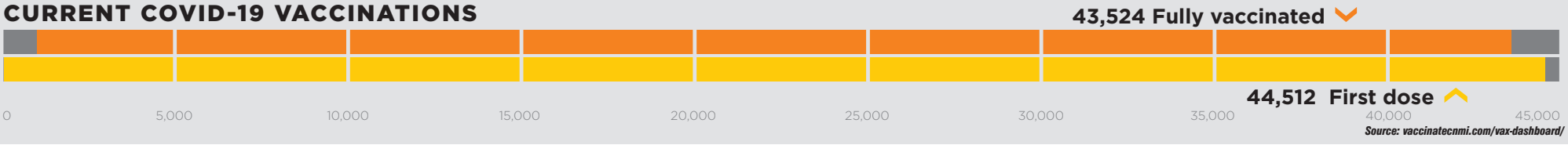
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

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President Joe Biden delivers his first State of the Union address Tuesday night.
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Ukraine's leader decried Russia's escalation of attacks on crowded urban areas.
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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns of massive declines in population by 2100.
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Local

Red Cross trains 90 people for Hands Only CPR, eyes 900 more

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres declares March as American Red Cross Month

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Disaster manager Juan Diego Tenorio said yesterday that they've already trained about 90 people for their Hands Only CPR life-saving initiative and will train 900 more to reach their ambitious goal of 1,000 in the next few months.

"This program that we're doing is going to be free," said Tenorio during the American Red Cross proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Tenorio said the more people they can train in the community to help save lives and provide them with a basic skill or providing hands-only CPR, the better chances patients would be in surviving accidents.

He said that would help the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and many of the CNMI's first responders.

CONTIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres joins American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh and other Red Cross officials and volunteers in a group photo in front of the Governor's Office building on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Torres signed a proclamation declaring March as American Red Cross Month.

"That's a very ambitious goal, but it's not impossible," Tenorio said.

He said the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is only as good as the support they receive from the CNMI government and private partners. Tenorio said their partners and volunteers have been really the key to their success.

"We look forward to many, many more years of this partnership and collaboration because, at the end of the day, we're all going in the same direction and that's to help the community," he said.

Tenorio noted that they have many great volunteers on the island who have gone above and beyond their call to serve the community. He said some of their volunteers were at Ground Zero as front-liners after 9/11.

He said they have one volunteer who was actually deployed to the California wildfires and was there for a month, providing logistical support to the operation.

These were learned yesterday soon after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared March as American Red Cross Month. Torres said Red Cross has done an extraordinary job in reaching out to the community and that some of the projects the Red Cross worked with DFEMS was the installation of free smoke alarm on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Those actions really save lives," Torres said.

The governor said the Red Cross was one of the first recipients of the American Rescue Plan Act funding and was the

See RED CROSS on Page 4

Manglona seeks legal opinion on McDoulett's role in impeachment proceedings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) sought Tuesday the legal opinion of the Senate's two legal counsels to what extent former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Joe McDoulett, who is now a private lawyer, can work for the Senate and its committees without the consent of all Senate members.

Manglona

Manglona requested Senate legal counsels Joe Bermudes and Antonette Villagomez to provide him with a legal opinion whether McDoulett is necessary staff and does CNMI Constitution Article II, Legislative Branch, Section 17, Subsection (c) mandate that he be employed by the Legislative Bureau director. Manglona said such statute [subsection (c)] provides that the Legislative Bureau "shall provide all required services to the Legislature in connection with duties and responsibilities during sessions and committee meetings."

The senator also raised with Bermudes and Villagomez the following questions:

If McDoulett is personal staff, does Article II Section 17, Subsection (c) mean that he should not be afforded the ability to sit in as legal counsel assigned to a Senate committee(s)?

Is there any colorable argument that Mr. McDoulett may be unethically practicing law by working for the Senate, which is already represented by two legal counsels?

McDoulett appeared as Senate special counsel and provided legal assistance during Friday's joint meeting by the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations and Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations. McDoulett was also present during the full Senate's special session last Monday.

During Monday's session, McDoulett sat in the seat normally assigned to floor leader Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan), Manglona said.

There was a vacant seat because Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) appeared via a virtual platform.

Manglona said it is unclear what McDoulett's role was at this proceeding since the session was adjourned shortly after the public comment portion of the session.

He said the session's premature termination was a possible violation of the Open Government Act by Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) before all CNMI citizens were afforded the right to make comment.

Senators abruptly adjourned Monday's session after Manglona and Sen. Victor B.

See MANGLONA on Page 4

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2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 29,814 MILES — STK: 22H102A — KBB: $19,933
2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE — SALE PRICE $21,995 — 17,200 MILES — STK:21D078A — KBB: $23,225
2019 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT — SALE PRICE $26,995 — 24,500 MILES — STK: 22H063A — KBB: $27,398
2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 69,682 MILES — STK: 21M012A — KBB: $15,515
2020 HYUNDAI VENUE — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 8,383 MILES — STK: 21D082A — KBB: $21,071
2016 FORD EXPLORER XLT — SALE PRICE $22,995 — 38,752 MILES — STK: 16R266 — KBB: $22,827
2015 JEEP WRANGLER 4WD — SALE PRICE $27,995 — 71,101 MILES — STK: 5P279 — KBB: $31,785
2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 5,800 MILES — STK: 18HS1011 — KBB: $14,778
2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 52,907 MILES — STK:16P380 — KBB: $20,065
2018 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT — SALE PRICE $22,995 — 13,002 MILES — STK:22M002A — KBB: $22,440
2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD — SALE PRICE $33,995 — 15,260 MILES — STK: 18P344 — KBB: $34,836
2018 KIA FORTE LX — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 16,939 MILES — STK:18HS920 — KBB: $18,632
2016 TOYOTA COROLLA — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 20,097 MILES — STK: 16P378
2018 TOYOTA CAMRY LE — SALE PRICE $24,995 — 44,952 MILES — STK: 19P379A — KBB: $25,027
2019 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 V6 — SALE PRICE $36,995 — 24,087 MILES — STK: 19P340 — KBB: $38,107
2017 KIA SEDONA LX — SOLD — SALE PRICE $16,995 — 38,770 MILES — STK:17HS759 — KBB: $17,648
2016 HYUNDAI GENESIS COUPE — SALE PRICE $21,995 — 50,501 MILES — STK:16P374 — KBB: $23,203
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Man allegedly stole over $8K from employer to play poker

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A man allegedly stole over $8,000 from his employer and reportedly admitted to taking the money and using it to play poker and to purchase methamphetamine, or ice.

Jerry Babauta Basa Jr., 31, appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio last Monday for a bail hearing on the charge of theft filed after he allegedly stole $8,582 from his employer, Marpac, to play poker and purchase ice.

Kim-Tenorio imposed a $1,000 cash bail on Basa and remanded him back to Department of Correction custody following the hearing.

The defendant was ordered to return to court on March 9 at 10am for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for March 14 at 9am.

According to court documents, Basa was a sales agent for Marpac when he allegedly collected an $8,582 payment from a store in Kagman and used a large chunk of the money to play poker and buy ice instead of remitting the money.

On Feb. 4, the Marpac resident manager called the Department of Public Safety to report the theft.

The manager told police that Basa had allegedly collected a payment of over $8,000 from a store in Kagman the day before, Feb. 3. However, the following day, Basa still had not turned it in.

A fellow sales agent told police that when they went to collect the money that day, Basa insisted on receiving the money but he thought nothing of it.

In an interview with Basa, he said he received an $8,852 payment from a store in Kagman at around 4pm on Feb. 3 and, instead of remitting the money, he played poker at an arcade in Garapan.

While at the poker arcade, Basa said he met a random guy and bought ice from him. After consuming some ice, Basa said he continued to play poker until the morning of Feb. 4.

That morning, Basa said he sent a message to his boss saying that he couldn't come to work because he was not feeling well but his manager said he knew that it was a lie.

Basa also admitted to police that it was a lie and he couldn't come in because he didn't have the money.

Basa said despite receiving multiple messages from his manager, co-workers, and family members to return the money, he instead smoked more ice and continued to play poker.

Later, he said he called his manager and informed him that he only had $1,604 left from the money he took and that he would return it.

Basa said he went to the office that day and returned the company car, keys, and what was left of the money.

Court grants dismissal of case vs USCIS over processing delay

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the stipulated, or agreed upon, dismissal of the case filed by two men against U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services for its delay in deciding on their green card applications.

Last March 1, James P. Eagan and Simei P. Eagan, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, by and through its counsel, filed a stipulation to dismiss the case with prejudice. With prejudice means the case cannot be filed again.

The parties did not indicate why they agreed to dismiss the case.

In her order yesterday, Chief Judge Ramon Manglona stated that because the stipulation is signed by all parties and clearly indicates dismissal with prejudice, this case is accordingly dismissed with prejudice.

Following her order, Manglona directed the clerk to close this case.

James and Simei Eagan filed a civil lawsuit against USCIS for allegedly not making any decision on the U.S. permanent residency applications that they submitted back in 2019.

The two, who filed their complaint without a lawyer, initially asked the court to issue an order compelling USCIS to act and issue a ruling in their case.

RED CROSS

From Page 2

largest recipients at the time.

"Thank to all of you for your partnership. Thank you for making a big impact on our community. As one community, we are stronger together," Torres said.

Red Cross NMI executive director John Hirsh, wo has been with Red Cross for almost 20 years now, said that it's their incredible volunteers and partners that enable the Red Cross to be successful.

"Without our volunteers, and without the generosity of everyone in the community, we wouldn't be strong, and we wouldn't be able to respond to these catastrophic events on our shores and throughout the nation," Hirsh said.

He said they've deployed volunteers to California for the wildfires and throughout the nation.

He said that, with their global and regional partners, they've been able to help the families in Tonga impacted by the underwater volcano eruption.

Hirsh said the Red Cross has also sent 30 volunteers (not from the CNMI) into Eastern Europe to work on different military installations to provide support for service members.

He said they are also working with the Ukrainian Red Cross and other partners in neighboring countries such as the Hungarian Red cross to ensure that they are providing humanitarian aid to many Ukrainian refugees.

"I've always feel just privileged to be part of not only of our local team here, but part of this global movement, that we can leverage resources, financial and human resources to really, really make a difference in the world," Hirsh said.

American Red Cross-NMI board chair Mable Glenn said their focus going into their third year with the COVID-19 pandemic is fundraising and getting back their feet to be able to provide all these programs and services.

Glenn said this month they are focusing on educating the community on their different programs and services.

"We're going to be spotlighting our volunteers and encouraging people that are maybe afraid to volunteer, maybe they don't have the time, or they don't know how," she said.

The Red Cross has about 170 volunteers on Saipan alone.

COVID

From Page 1

Of the 9,724 total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, as of Feb. 28, 2022, there have been 8,967 recoveries; 727 active cases; and 30 COVID-19-related deaths, A total of 9,064 were identified via community testing and 660 via travel testing.

A total of 36 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 1, 2022; of the eligible population, 56.9% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 619 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Feb. 28, 2022: 442 via community-based testing; 92 at Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; 71 at Tinian Health Center; and 14 at the Rota Health Center. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

THAAD

From Page 1

system designed to shoot down incoming missiles. Right now, a THAAD battery is assigned to the defense of Guam. By deploying a THAAD remote launcher on Rota, this can expand the amount of area a THAAD battery can defend and allows commanders greater flexibility in deploying the system, the news release stated.

Aside from merely saying the move is intended to exercise emerging capabilities, the news release did not indicate whether the action is in response to any intelligence report or military action by other nearby countries.

The news release states that a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from the 15th Wing based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii will move the equipment from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam to Rota International Airport.

This operation will allow the 94th AAMDC to gather valuable data and inform future deployments of THAAD Remote Launch packages throughout the theater, the news release stated.

The news release said that THAAD Remote Launch is a recently developed capability that allows a THAAD launcher to operate while geographically separated from its Tactical Fire Control Center and radar array in Guam.

"There is no more important mission than the defense of the homeland—and exercising THAAD's remote launch capability allows us to enhance the effectiveness of a combat-tested, upper-tier missile defense system that is vital to the Army's ability to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Brig. Gen. Mark Holler, commanding general of 94th AAMDC, in the news release.

Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, senior military official for CNMI and Joint Region Marianas commander said, "Missile defense is the number one priority for Indo-Pacific command in this region and testing THAAD's remote launch ability bolsters our defense of CNMI, fortifying our layered defense in the region."

The 94th AAMDC is responsible for all Army air defense assets in the Indo-Pacific theater. Their mission is to conduct integrated air and missile defense operations in coordination with joint forces, allies, and partners in order to defend the homeland and critical assets.

Joint Region Marianas oversees the installation management functions of both U.S. Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base on Guam. The commander of Joint Region Marianas also serves as Commander for the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Defense Representative to Guam, CNMI, Republic of Palau, and Federated States of Micronesia. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MANGLONA

From Page 3

Hocog (R-Rota) almost came to blows inside the Senate chamber during a recess. The session was intended to tackle the proposed rules that would govern the impeachment trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

During Monday's Senate special session's public comment portion, Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) stated that the fact that a special counsel was specifically hired to draft up the Impeachment Rules and personally participate as the Senate joint committees' counsel during their meeting Friday instead of Bermudes and Villagomez is "contradictory to and is a betrayal" on the CNMI Constitution.

Babauta also asked if Torres, the Tinian mayor, or the Senate leadership is paying for McDoulett's services of.

Hofschneider has yet to comment about McDoulett's role in the matter.

2ND

From Page 1

ers three months after the first booster shot.

In addition, only the mRNA vaccines were approved for this second round of boosters, namely Pfizer and Moderna.

"They're going to be eligible for their fourth dose three months after their third dose and it should be one of the mRNA vaccines that's the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccine. We request people who think that they fit that criteria to have a conversation with your health care provider," Muldoon said.

Muldoon said CHCC is highly encouraging all those who fit the criteria to get their second round of boosters, given the likelihood of a continuous increase in COVID-19 positive cases, as well future variants of the virus.

"Just given the likelihood that we will continue to see more COVID-19 cases and different variants impacting our community this year, I encourage all of you who fit that category to make an immediate appointment with your health care providers so that we can get you boosted. Doing it sooner rather than later is very important," she said.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said that only those who receive recommendation forms from their healthcare providers will be given a second round of boosters.

"We have a fourth dose referral form. Vaccine recipients are encouraged to speak with their health care provider about their medical condition or conditions, and whether getting a fourth dose is appropriate for them. This form will be shared with all providers, including CHC providers, as well as private providers so that they can complete a document," she said.

These recommendation forms, Muña said, are what individuals will show vaccination sites in order to receive the second round of boosters.

"There will be information on [those forms] regarding what the recommendation is for and if the patient actually meets the eligibility for the fourth dose. Once that form is completed, then [recipients] can bring that to either a community outreach center, the mass vaccination site located at the [Pedro P. Tenorio] Multi-Purpose Center, or to an immunization clinic," she said.

According to a press release from CHCC, people ages 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received a mRNA vaccine for their primary series (Pfizer or Moderna) should receive a total of four doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

The four doses are made up of a primary series of three doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, plus one booster of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, fourth dose. The mRNA booster will be given at least three months after third dose of a mRNA vaccine.

People ages 18 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received the first dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should get a second dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines).

They should also receive a booster (mRNA COVID-19 vaccine) in most situations given at least two months after a second dose—for a total of three doses.

One of two in stabbing case moves to throw out charge

One of the two defendants who were arrested for their alleged involvement in the stabbing murder of a man on New Year's Day has asked the Superior Court to dismiss the charges against her because she claims she did not receive adequate notice of the offense under which she was charged.

Yi Lyuqin, the girlfriend and reported accomplice of Kong Lingyang in the alleged murder of Li SongZhi, has filed a motion through her counsel, Matthew J. Holley, to dismiss the charge of accessory after the fact against her for insufficient information and for not receiving adequate notice of the offense under which she was charged.

In his argument, Holley explains that the specific allegation against his client was that she was an accessory after the fact for allegedly hiding the knife used to stab Li from police.

However, hiding a knife that was used in a crime, in and of itself, is an insufficient basis to maintain a charge of accessory after the fact, Holley argues.

"Merely hiding a knife is an insufficient basis to maintain a charge of accessory after the fact. The offense requires that Yi hide the knife in order to hinder or prevent the offender's apprehension, trial, or punishment," he said.

"What is glaringly missing from the allegation against Yi as an accessory after the fact [is] that she assisted the offender when she hid the knife. In fact, just the opposite occurred. Unbeknownst to the co-defendant, Yi hid the knife from him, pulling it out of his back pocket," Holley added.

In addition, Holley said it is undisputed that Yi approached Department of Public Safety officers to cooperate, including showing them where the knife was, leading to its recovery.

"Most importantly, the information in this case fails to make any allegation that Yi hid the knife from the Commonwealth. To that there can be no dispute. Here, it is undisputed that the information does not allege that Yi hid the knife from the Commonwealth in an attempt to assist the offender," he said.

Holley further argues that had the Commonwealth alleged Yi hid the knife from it, his client would understand what is needed to prepare her defense.

"But as alleged, the charging document does not apprise her of what evidence she must be prepared to meet. Because the information has not put Yi on notice of the conduct for which she was charged, she cannot adequately defend herself," he said.

According to court documents, the couple was arrested in the early hours of Jan. 1, for their alleged involvement in the stabbing murder of Li.

Kong allegedly stabbed Li multiple times following an altercation between the two that stemmed from an altercation between their girlfriends.

Yi said in an interview that when she saw a pocket knife sticking out from Kong's back pocket, she pulled it out and hid it behind a typhoon shutter near King's Jewelry. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

Hawaii to lift COVID travel quarantine rules

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii plans to lift its COVID-19 quarantine requirement for travelers this month, meaning that starting on March 26 those arriving from other places in the U.S. won't have to show proof of vaccination or a negative test to avoid sequestering themselves for five days.

Hawaii is the only U.S. state to implement a coronavirus quarantine program of this kind.

Gov. David Ige said at a news conference the requirement saved lives and was a major factor in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in the islands. Hawaii has one of the lowest coronavirus infection rates in the nation.

The quarantine period for travelers lasted 14 days when Hawaii first imposed it in March 2020. The state later created testing and vaccination exemptions.

The state screened 11.3 million passengers since the testing exemption was launched in October 2020, Ige said.

Those arriving in Hawaii from outside the country still must adhere to U.S. federal guidelines, which vary depending on American citizenship. International tourists do not need to quarantine but still need proof of vaccination and a negative test.

The governor said he would maintain Hawaii's indoor mask mandate at least through March 25, and would be evaluating whether to lift it after that. Hawaii is last state in the nation with a statewide mandate in effect.

The governor said the state Department of Health will review the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before he decides, Ige said.

Ige said he wants to make sure that public schools will be able to continue with in-person learning. He said more people will be traveling as spring break comes, which could increase the presence of the coronavirus at schools.

"The pandemic is not over. Tragically, we continue to see those that we know and love continue to suffer from COVID-19," he said.

The governor said he was proud of how the community responded the pandemic.

"It is about the people, place and culture of all of us here, coming from diverse backgrounds but always understanding that there is a bigger reason to be willing to sacrifice individual needs to benefit the community," Ige said. "And over and over again, we were willing to do that."

Public warned of rip currents

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through 6am today, Thursday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents will be present in east facing reefs of the Marianas. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Ipan buoy and model guidance continue to indicate a large east swell due to fresh to strong trade winds, which will keep the rip current risk high along east facing reefs through 6am today. After, the seas should trend downwards before the risk of rip currents becomes moderate.

The public is advised to stay out of the water along east facing reefs. Elsewhere, swim near a lifeguard.***(PR)***

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ATTORNEY FOR: *Petitioner Clarie S. Kosack*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF, REXFORD COLIN KOSACK, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0045-CV NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 31st day of March 2022, at 10:00 A.M., CLARIE S. KOSACK's Petition to be appointed the Executrix of the Estate of REXFORD C. KOSACK, decedent, and for the Last and Will and Testament of said decedent to be admitted into probate, will be heard by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Said hearing will take place at the second floor of the Guma Husticia, in Susupe, Saipan, when and where all persons interested in said Estate may appear and object to said appointment or the probate of the Will.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN, to all creditors, heirs and any person having any interest in or claim against the Estate of REXFORD C. KOSACK, deceased, to file any claim they may have with the Clerk of the Commonwealth Superior Court or with Timothy H. Bellas, attorney for Petitioner, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP. 96950, within sixty (60) days after the date of first publication of this Notice.

Dated this 1st day of March, 2022.

Deputy Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

WANTED: GRAPHIC ARTIST

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

is looking for a full-time graphic artist.

The ideal candidate must know how to use InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator; can work fast and is able to work in a deadline-oriented environment; must be quick to grasp instructions; and must be able to create ad designs, concepts, and layouts based on knowledge of layout principles and esthetic design concepts.

Supercharge your graphic design career by learning the ins and outs of newspaper publishing!

Email your application and résumé to Mia Carreon at mia_carreon@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

WANTED: SPORTS REPORTER

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

is looking for a sports reporter.

Qualifications:

- First and foremost, must be a fan of all manner of sports;
- Must have a creative flair in writing;
- Comfortable with interviewing people;
- Able to work on weekends and at night;
- Team player.

Perks

- Not a boring 9-to-5 job;
- You'll meet a lot of people;
- Watching sports is your job;
- Up close and personal to the CNMI's biggest sporting event this summer—the Pacific Mini Games 2022.

No writing work experience? We are willing to train! Email your application and résumé to Mia Carreon at mia_carreon@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tels: (670) 233-9447
233-9448
233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

PUBLIC NOTICE

03/03/2022

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 18, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Road and drainage improvement project for the Carolinas Heights in the island of Tinian.

The project is an unpaved road that serves residents, farmers, and tourists. It is also where the main water line was installed and connected to the one-million gallon water tank serving 2/3 of the population of Tinian. This road has been a constant rebuild, resurfacing and maintenance prone for every heavy rainfall in this area. The vehicles driven on this stretch of road after heavy rains sometimes become difficult to drive through due to large rocks or crevices created from the water run-off. The heavy silt and clay end up blocking the roadway or discharge to nearby farmlands. The CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW) proposes to replace the current road conditions to a paved road and with concrete swales on both sides of the road to convey and divert the water runoff to a nearby existing old quarry. This will prevent erosions to the area and protect the existing main water line from future storms.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is an essential component that supports low-income to moderate income families who will live in reconstructed/rehabilitated/newly constructed homes in the area. Consequently, NMHC finds an immediate urgency to fund DPW's unmet public infrastructure needs; specifically, this road improvement project and for the ensuing reasons.

Location:
Carolinas Height Road, Lat. 14º 57' 45" N, Long. 145º 38' 44" E, Tinian, MP 96951

Total Project Cost:
$1,619,755.00- The project is funded entirely by the CDBG-DR program.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **March 18, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

DeLeon Guerrero pushes $500 fuel vouchers due to soaring fuel prices

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) pre-filed Monday a resolution requesting Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to provide financial assistance to meet the increasing fuel costs in the CNMI by implementing a $500 fuel voucher program.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment about the Senate Joint Resolution 22-08 that she pre-filed, DeLeon Guerrero said Tuesday that the rising costs of fuel, whether at the pump or the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Fuel Adjustment Charge, is adding more financial stress on individuals and families.

She said the CNMI government can and should provide this much needed assistance however best it could with either direct American Rescue Plan Act funds or from funds that can be "backfilled" by ARPA.

"Simply, families should not be placed in any more financially stressful conditions," the senator said.

She stated in the resolution that in addition to the various hardships imposed by the economic turmoil caused by the global pandemic, CNMI residents are also facing substantial increases in fuel prices.

She noted that in 2021, the Commonwealth's fuel cost was $5.17 per gallon on Saipan, $6.11 per gallon on Tinian, and $5.77 per gallon on Rota, while the 2021 national fuel price average was $3.36, according to the American Automobile Association.

The senator said this year, the fuel cost is $5.46 per gallon on Saipan, $7.19 per gallon on Tinian, and $6.94 per gallon on Rota, as compared to the U.S. mainland average fuel cost of $3.53 per gallon.

DeLeon Guerrero said with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it is reasonably expected that the fuel prices will increase even higher and further affecting the lives of everyone.

She said Guam is also experiencing the same financial hardships caused by the global pandemic and the substantially high cost of fuel that the government of Guam is putting together a Gas Voucher Program using ARPA funds.

DeLeon Guerrero said Guam's program provides qualifying recipients $100 fuel voucher over a span of three months totaling to $300, in an effort to assist in mitigating the overwhelming rise in fuel costs.

She said CNMI residents are also in need of government financial assistance to ease the burden of the high fuel costs on all three islands. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

'Music from Cinema' concert

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band will be presenting their spring concert, titled "Music from Cinema," on March 13, Sunday, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom. Doors will open at 3:30pm; show starts at 4pm. The band will be joined by the Saipan Junior Band. Email saipanpacificwinds@gmail.com to get your tickets. ***(PR)***

5.0-magnitude quake in Guam region

At 9:54am on March 2 2022, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 128 kilometers south-southwest of Merizo Village, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. ***(PR)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is preparing to conduct the CNMI 2022 Prevailing Wage Study (PWS) survey to begin on March 01, 2022 and notifies all businesses and employers in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the PWS survey questionnaire.

All businesses and employers, with and with no employees, are urged to complete this survey before March 15, 2022.

Data Collection Portal Link:
http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/

‘Propst is all talk, but does nothing for retirees’ bonuses’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said Friday that Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) is all talk but has done nothing to protect the government retirees and their bonuses.

“So what is he doing to give the retirees their bonuses? What is he doing to protect the retirees? What initiative has he done to tell every retiree I am here for you? I don’t see that,” said Torres during KKa radio press briefing last week.

Torres gave the remarks after being asked to comment on Propst’s statement during last Feb. 22 House of Representatives’ session when the lawmaker accused that the governor of continuing to misuse and abuse taxpayer dollars. Propst stated that they cannot embolden or reward Torres by giving him 100% reprogramming authority over the budget. Propst also stated that the total deficit under Torres’ six years in charge of running the government totals $314,611,966.

Torres said Friday that he offered the retirees’ their bonus since last December, but that he does not see Propst taking any action to protect the retirees and get their bonuses other than talk.

At the Feb. 22 session, the House voted to reject the Senate’s version of a bill that gives a $1,000 bonus for government retirees.

On the $314 million deficit, Torres said that it’s only his administration that has paid more on land compensations.

He said that, in 2015 when he got in as lieutenant governor, it was not even eight to nine months later that Super Typhoon Soudelor devastated the CNMI. Then just as the CNMI was already on the verge of recovering and completing other projects from Soudelor, Typhoon Mangkhut hit. He said those projects they worked from Soudelor had to be ceased again, then Super Typhoon Yutu came in.

“And everybody knows that when those typhoon disasters hit, we needed to do what we needed to do to make sure that our community was safe and we recover as soon as we can,” he said.

Torres said that in 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic hit the Commonwealth.

CHamoru origins among topics to be taken up at UOG research conference

The public is invited to hear from researchers on their latest findings related to Pacific Islander origins and Pacific Islands culture, artifacts, languages, and literature at the 43rd CLASS Annual Research Conference.

The conference, organized by the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, will be held virtually from 9:30am to 4pm on Friday, March 11.

The CLASS Annual Research Conference is a multidisciplinary platform for local, regional, and global scholars, scientists, visual and performing artists, and students to present and discuss their discoveries and experiences specific to the Pacific region.

In celebration of the University of Guam’s 70th anniversary jubilee, the theme of this year’s conference is “Retrospective(s): A Look at Origins and How They Take Us Into the Future.”

The conference will feature 23 presentations, including:

· “Using Genomic Data to Uncover Early CHamoru Origins,” a presentation by Miguel Vilar, Ph.D., and Frank Camacho, Ph.D., on the DNA analyses of the CHamoru people as part of the National Geographic’s Genographic Project

· “Inscription of Carolinian Wayfinding and Canoe Making to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding” by Ashley Meredith, National Cultural Anthropologist for the Federated States of Micronesia

· “Ancient CHamoru Burial Aftercare: A Panel Discussion on What Practices and Procedures Should Occur After the Discovery of Ancient CHamoru Burials” led by Speaker Therese Terlaje

A complete agenda of presentations and panels can be found at url.uog.edu/classarc.

Keynote speaker

Rindraty Celes Limtiaco, president and executive director of the Pacific Daily News, will deliver the keynote speech at 12:30pm. Limtiaco began her career as a reporter covering politics, government, and education and worked her way up the journalistic ladder to become a publisher.

Limtiaco has now been with the PDN for 30 years—as president and publisher for the previous 13 years while now also having the responsibility of executive editor. With her years of experience in the island’s media sector, she has reported, directed coverage on, or engaged in the way the island has grown and developed in the past decades.

With a belief that everyone has a responsibility to make the community a better place, she is devoted to helping community organizations and projects that focus on the island’s economic and social development.

Register for the conference

The conference is free of charge and open to the public. Register at bit.ly/uog43rdclassarc. For more information, visit the conference webpage at url.uog.edu/classarc or contact Dr. David Ruskin at arc@triton.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP22-DCCA-CCDF-42200077

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 23, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

“TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR CCDF’S FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM, INCLUDING LICENSE-EXEMPT FAMILY, FRIEND, OR NEIGHBOR (LEFFN) AND LICENSED HOME-BASED PROVIDERS”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD. DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, CCDF WILL CONDUCT THE PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE VIRTUALLY AT **1:30 P.M.** ON **MARCH 11, 2022**. THE CALENDAR INVITE AND LINK WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CCDF OFFICE USING THE EMAIL PROVIDED BY THE PROPOSER TO PROCUREMENT.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA EMAIL TO mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com OR VIA FACSIMILE TO **(670) 664-2547 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON MARCH 4, 2022,** ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Thursday, March 3, 2022

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING SCHEDULED MARCH 2, 2022, IS CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM. THE MEETING IS RESCHEDULED ON SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022, AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Election of Officers
  E. Adoption of Minutes:
    1. August 10, 2021
    2. October 28, 2021
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. DCD Financial Status
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Update on Online Loan Applications & Loan Management System
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Review & Board Action on the Amendments to the DCD Rules & Regulations to Allow for Remote Attendance
  B. Deliberation & Board Action on Loan Applications & Loan Matters, as follows:
    1. Estate of John DLG. Pangelinan
    2. Island Development Corporation (Jesus M.V. Guerrero)
    3. Christopher & Diana Hocog
    4. Martin & Crystal Pangelinan
    5. Nadia B. Manglona
    6. M.B. Sablan Realty
    7. William & Corrine Cing
    8. Roy C. Manglona
    9. Domingo Hocog
    10. Martha C. Barcinas
    11. Julenolf C. Jacob
    12. Tim San Nicolas
    13. Juan A. Barcinas
    14. Debt Relief Clients on Set-Aside Int.
    15. Judgment Debts
    16. Non-Performing Loans
  C. Discussion & Board Action on FLIB Loan Program
  D. Deliberation & Board Action to Increase the Loan Approval Cap Delegated to the Executive Director
  E. Discussion and Board Action on Loan Decision Process
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Thursday, March 3, 2022

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED TODAY, MARCH 3, 2022, AT 2:00 P.M. IS CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM. THE MEETING IS RESCHEDULED ON SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022, AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting
    2. October 20, 2021 Special Meeting
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director’s Report
    1. Administrative/Personnel Matters:
      a. Deliberation & Board Action on the Recruitment of Economic Development Manager
      b. Deliberation & Board Action of Executive Director’s Employment Contract
      c. Review & Board Action on CEDA’s Position Classification
      d. Review and Board Action on FY 2023 CEDA Budget
      e. Review & Board Action on the Amendment to the CEDA Board By-Laws
      f. Board Action on the Amendment to the DCD Rules & Regulations to Allow Remote Attendance
    2. Loan Matters:
      a. Deliberation & Board Action on the Estate of Herman & Joyce Palacios
      b. Deliberation & Board Action on the Estate of John DLG. Pangelinan
      c. Deliberation & Board Action on Island Development Corporation/Jesus M.V. Guerrero
      d. Deliberation & Board Action on the Set-Aside Interest for Debt Relief Clients
      e. Deliberation & Board Action on Judgment Debts
      f. Deliberation & Board Action on Non-Performing Loans
  B. Comptroller’s Report
    1. Presentation of FY 2020 Audit Report
    2. CEDA & SSBCI Financial Status
    3. Deliberation & Board Action on Delinquent Receivables’ Write Off
  C. Qualifying Certificate Program – Update, Review & Board Action on the Saipan Globe International Group QC Compliance Status
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Deliberation & Board Action on the Policy & Guidelines on Disposal of CEDA Foreclosed Properties
  B. Update on the Saipan, Tinian & Rota Properties
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Review & Board Action on the $25M Bank of Guam Loan (Loan Revision)
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The world stands with Ukraine

Not since 9/11 has an unprovoked hostility been so clearly defined as good versus evil. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has, if nothing else, sidestepped the usual vagaries of who started what or who is the victim and who is the aggressor. On the one side is Ukraine, a sovereign nation. the second largest in land mass in Europe. On the other is Russia's authoritarian ruler, Vladimir Putin, with an enormous military and an unbridled desire to return his country back to the Soviet Union days.

Even his cover story for this extraordinary military action—including a claim of "peacekeeping" support for "breakaway" regions of Donetsk and Luhansk—was so flimsy one wonders why he bothered. The absurdity peaked when Putin explained in a Feb. 24 televised speech that his goal was the "denazification" of Ukraine, a country currently led by Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Jewish grandson of a Holocaust survivor.

In Baltimore, as is the case across the United States, the only serious questions people are asking themselves today is how best to support Ukraine and punish Russia and whether economic sanctions announced by President Joe Biden are tough enough. The appetite for engaging in a direct military clash and putting U.S. troops in the line of fire, meanwhile, is appropriately low. And while there's certainly been some finger-pointing over whether the U.S. had done enough to support Ukraine after the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, as both of the last two presidents withheld military aid from that country, this sort of second-guessing is like fretting over U.S. military preparedness prior to Pearl Harbor. Let the historians pass their judgment. What people really want to know is, what happens next?

Putting the economic squeeze on Russia has much appeal. The threat of sanctions may not have initially deterred Putin, but it's clear that he's made some serious miscalculations. First, that the level of resistance within Ukraine would prove as lethal as it's been to date but secondly, that NATO members and others would be willing to impose sanctions far beyond anything considered after Crimea. Surely, top of that list is kicking Russia out of the SWIFT global bank payments system which has already sent the ruble and that country's stock market into a steep decline. Even Germany, a country with an understandable post-World War II aversion to military spending and a dependence on Russian energy, has decided to toss at least 100 billion euros at its armed forces.

But make no mistake, imposing sanctions against Russia will not be painless for the rest of the world. It will not be as simple as pouring Russian vodka down the drain or bemoaning recent vandalism at the St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Dundalk, as heinous as the topping of 49 headstones last week might have been. And certainly it will require more than posting on social media blue and yellow messages of support that symbolize Ukraine's flag. Isolating Russia means harming the buyer of Russian goods are hurt as well. And that could include oil and gas, a major Russian export.

See UKRAINE on Next Page

Why is Belarus helping Russia invade Ukraine? An explainer

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

On Monday, Russian and Ukrainian delegations met for talks on Ukraine's border with Belarus — one sign of how Vladimir Putin has swallowed the country of Belarus while the world was watching the war in Ukraine. Belarusian troops may now supplement Russians in the effort to conquer Kyiv, and Belarus could serve as a new base for Russian nuclear weapons. Here's some background on how Putin effectively annexed Belarus, and made it the model for what he still hopes to do with Ukraine.

What is the relationship between Russia and Belarus?

Belarus, a country of around 9.5 million people that sits on Russia's eastern border and Ukraine's northern border, has been in Vladimir Putin's sights as long as Ukraine has.

Putin considers those two independent countries, both of them former Soviet republics, to be a part of the historic Russian heartland. He claims they were unfairly separated from the motherland after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Since 1994, Belarus has been ruled by the authoritarian Alexander Lukashenko, who managed to maintain a certain balance between West and East, while also maintaining centralized state controls over the economy and the political system. That supposed neutrality was why peace talks over Putin's first invasion of Ukraine in 2014 were held in the Belarusian capital of Minsk.

However, the Kremlin has been pursuing what some called a "soft annexation" of Belarus for some time. Russian oligarchs — members of the super-wealthy elite who managed to acquire private control over major industries as the Soviet Union collapsed — have bought up key pieces of the Belarusian economy. And Moscow has pressed Belarus to export goods through Russian ports.

But until now there were never Russian troops based on Ukrainian soil.

Why is Belarus helping Russia invade Ukraine?

In 2020, Lukashenko became beholden to Putin for saving his dictatorship. A younger Belarusian generation—one that was allowed to travel and was tired of Soviet-style rule—rebelled against Lukashenko's rigging of a presidential election. Exit polls and election monitors believed the election had been won by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, a former English teacher and homemaker who courageously stepped in to run after her popular candidate husband was jailed.

When hundreds of thousands of citizens protested the stolen election, Lukashenko crushed the demonstrators with the full political and economic support of Putin. The Russian leader bailed out the Belarusian economy, and made clear he would oppose any effort to democratize the country.

So Lukashenko was in no position to say "no" when Putin sent 30,000 Russian troops to Ukraine in February for joint exercises with Belarusian troops, in obvious preparation for the Russian invasion. The Belarusian border lies only around 140 north miles by good road to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

Those Belarusian troops, so far, have remained loyal to Lukashenko, and it now appears that some of them will join the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

All expectations are that Russian troops will remain in Belarus and Russia will establish bases there.

Moreover, Lukashenko just pushed through a referendum renouncing Belarus' non-nuclear status, which it agreed to when it gave up its Soviet-era nuclear weapons in 1994. That means Russia could move nuclear weapons into Belarus.

Does Putin's effective takeover of Belarus have bigger security significance to NATO beyond the serious threat it poses to Ukraine?

Yes. If you look at a map, you see that Belarus also borders Poland and Lithuania. That means that Russia can now move nuclear weapons up to the border of those states, both of them NATO members. It also means that Lithuania and the other two Baltic states, Latvia and Estonia, are almost cut off by Russia-controlled territory from other NATO countries — connected only by a 60-mile strip of border with Poland known as the Suwalki Gap.

So why was Belarus the site of peace talks, held Monday between Russian and Ukrainian delegations?

The talks were not held in Belarus. Ukraine turned down Russia's first proposal to conduct the talks in Minsk, precisely because of the risk that the Ukrainian delegation would not return alive. Instead, the talks were held on the border of Belarus and Ukraine, after assurances from Lukashenko that the Ukrainian delegation would remain safe. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had suggested other locations, but Russia refused, so the Ukrainians took a risk and went to the Belarus border.

At least for this first round of talks, they returned unharmed.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Only a cheater afraid of the rules of the game stacks the deck with five aces'

Editor's Note: Rep. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, delivered the following remarks in the Senate Chamber during the afternoon session Monday, February 28, 2022. It is being published in two parts due to its length.

First of two parts

Good afternoon, members of the 22nd Senate. My name is Celina R. Babauta and I appear before you in my official capacity as a duly elected member of the 22nd House of Representatives.

I want to state for the record that I denounce the proposed rules adopted and passed by the Senate joint committee of Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, and the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations, respectively chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), in their joint committee meeting held last Friday in this chamber, and further state that these proposed rules are not congruent with the applicable statutes and a complete betrayal of the CNMI Constitution.

The Open Government Act mandates that the public be afforded the right to make oral comments during the public comment period. Written comments are not sufficient. Even if COVID-19 concerns were applied, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and the House and Senate policies allow for public comments (in the lobby for example). These proposed rules were adopted in violation of the letter and spirit of the OGA law which states:

TITLE 1: GOVERNMENT
DIVISION 9: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
§ 9904. Meetings Declared Open and Public.

All meetings of the governing body of a public agency shall be open and public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the governing body of a public agency, except as otherwise provided by this chapter. The governing body shall afford all interested persons an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, in writing, on any agenda item. The governing body shall also afford all interested persons an opportunity to present oral testimony on any agenda item. The governing body may provide for reasonable administration of oral testimony by rule.

Furthermore,

TITLE 1: GOVERNMENT
DIVISION 9: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
§ 9907. Ordinances, Resolutions, Rules, Regulations, etc., to be Adopted at Public Meetings; Sanction; Notice.

No governing body of a public agency shall adopt any ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation, order, or directive except in a meeting open to the public and then only at a meeting, the date of which is fixed by law or rule, or at a meeting of which notice has been given according to the provisions of this chapter. Any action taken at meetings failing to comply with the provisions of this chapter shall be null and void.

The Open Government Act expressly prohibits this lack of transparency that was exhibited in the passage and adoption of the Senate Rules on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, during the Joint Committee meeting. These proposed rules were handled as if they were a threat to national or Commonwealth government security or some trade secret and were treated as secret document. The fact that a recess was called to accommodate Sen. Justo S. Quitugua's request for a copy of the final amendments to the rules during the joint committee meeting last Friday demonstrates that the final proposed rules were kept secret from him as well and he is a member of not just one but both committees. He was not provided an advance copy to any of the final amendments of these proposed rules. Because of this willful violation of the Open Government Act, there can be no other interpretation than the rules that were adopted by the joint committee are null and void pursuant to the law. This body cannot adopt and pass these proposed rules because it is not properly before this body.

In addition, when the joint committee adopted and passed these rules last Friday, they violated the constitutional provision that the Legislative Bureau is the only entity tasked to assist the Legislature. It is their raison d'être.

ARTICLE II, Section 17

(b) The director shall employ all necessary staff, other than personal staff of the members of the legislature, pursuant to budgetary allocations. The staff members shall include legal counsel and other administrative staff.

(c) The bureau shall provide all required services to the legislature in connection with duties and responsibilities during sessions and committee meetings. It shall maintain all records, files, library and other documents of the legislature.

The fact that a special counsel was specifically hired to draft up these rules and personally participated as the joint committee's counsel during their meeting last Friday instead of the two very capable Senate counsel, is contradictory to and is a betrayal of our Constitution. Why even have a Constitution if the Senate can arbitrarily subvert its democratic principles?

There is no ambiguity in the Constitution that the bureau counsel should never be replaced by a private attorney in its role of assisting any Senate committee and private counsel should not be utilized as the official counsel in any official Senate or committee meeting. Even during the JGO hearings, we respected the Constitution and utilized only House legal counsel, no one else. The question I ask is who is providing direct or indirect funding for special counsel, Joe McDoulett? Is it the governor? The mayor of Tinian? Or the Senate leadership?)

As to Rule 1. Definitions.

By CELINA BABAUTA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Celina Babauta is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 22nd Legislature, representing Precinct 1.

(k) "House Impeachment Record" means:

(3) a copy of each document, audio recording or other material the House Committee(s) declined to accept as a part of the official record;

Telling the House to include items previously declined is improper infringement on the House's authority to establish its own record. The Senate cannot dictate how the House of Representatives conducts their business.

As to Rule 7. Appointment of Impeachment Prosecutor. The House Speaker who authorized the impeachment inquiry shall serve as the Impeachment Prosecutor.

(2) If the House Impeachment Committee chairperson is unable to serve because of death or incapacity, or declines to serve as impeachment prosecutor by written notice to the Senate president detailing why he/she declines to serve as impeachment prosecutor, then the Senate president shall select a House member to serve as impeachment prosecutor.

The Senate can not infringe on the ability of the House of Representatives to select its own House prosecutors. The Senate's attempt to dictate the number and identity of the House prosecutor in the proposed Rule violates the CNMI Constitution by usurping the powers of the speaker of the House of Representatives, and House's sole ability to prosecute the governor in front of the Senate by unreasonably dictating the manner in which, the House prosecutes the governor.

Additionally, limiting the House prosecutors is unreasonable because the House has the burden to prove its case and according to these proposed rules will be allowed only one prosecutor. In contrast, the governor who has no burden of proof whatsoever, has no limitations on his counsel.

The House prosecutor is not an attorney, and even with the assistance of two House counsels, only the House prosecutor can ask questions, raise objections, make motions, and make the opening statement and closing argument. The governor's counsel will be an attorney with training and experience to ask questions, raise objections, make motions, and make opening statements and closing argument.

The Senate president not only unconstitutionally claims the right to name the House prosecutor, he also unconstitutionally claims the sole authority to name a substitute if the speaker or the House Impeachment Committee chairperson is not willing or able to.

To be continued tomorrow

UKRAINE

From Page 8

Certain Republicans, including the 45th president, would have Americans believe that the U.S. could pump the world out of harm on the energy front. But the reality is far more complicated. While U.S. energy production, particularly natural gas, has certainly increased over time, this dream of energy "independence" is largely a mirage. And draining U.S. resources to the last drop as quickly as possible isn't much of a long-term solution to anything, especially given the threat of climate change. Better to do exactly what President Biden seeks to do: inflict the most harm possible on the Russian economy and on Putin and his allies while sparing other nations the most collateral damage possible; support peace talks but do not be intimidated by Putin's nuclear saber-rattling.

Symbolic actions have their place (and cemetery vandals richly deserve prosecution). Americans might also donate to the various charities that are helping Ukrainians (the International Committee of the Red Cross, Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services and Save the Children among them). But what may be needed most is to reflect the sort of determination that Ukrainians are demonstrating each day in fighting this invasion. If it means higher prices at the pump, worsening inflation or an economic slowdown, so be it. We are all Ukrainians now.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Deeply troubled by the impeachment rules'

As a federal official, the last thing I ever want to do is to intrude on local self-government.

But I am also a citizen of the Commonwealth and deeply troubled by the impeachment rules our Senate adopted.

I understand senators may have already decided for political reasons how they will vote on the impeachment charges filed against Gov. Torres—for theft, corruption, and neglect of duty.

But, if their goal is to protect the governor, stacking the deck against the House prosecutors is entirely unnecessary. Because the governor's political supporters in the Senate will always be able to vote to acquit, no matter what evidence House prosecutors present.

No, it seems the real purpose of the Senate rules is not to protect the governor, but to protect senators—from embarrassment.

How will it look if House prosecutors make a damning case against the governor, and senators still vote to acquit?

Yet adopting rules to cover up the evidence that led the House to impeach is a mistake. It will not protect senators; it will only increase their embarrassment.

The public is already well-aware of the factual basis for the House decision to impeach. Whether House prosecutors are allowed to present that evidence will not change minds about the governor's guilt.

But the public may very well change its mind about senators, who voted to suppress evidence by adopting the impeachment rules.

And it will not take a two-thirds vote to remove those senators from office, just a simple majority at their next election.

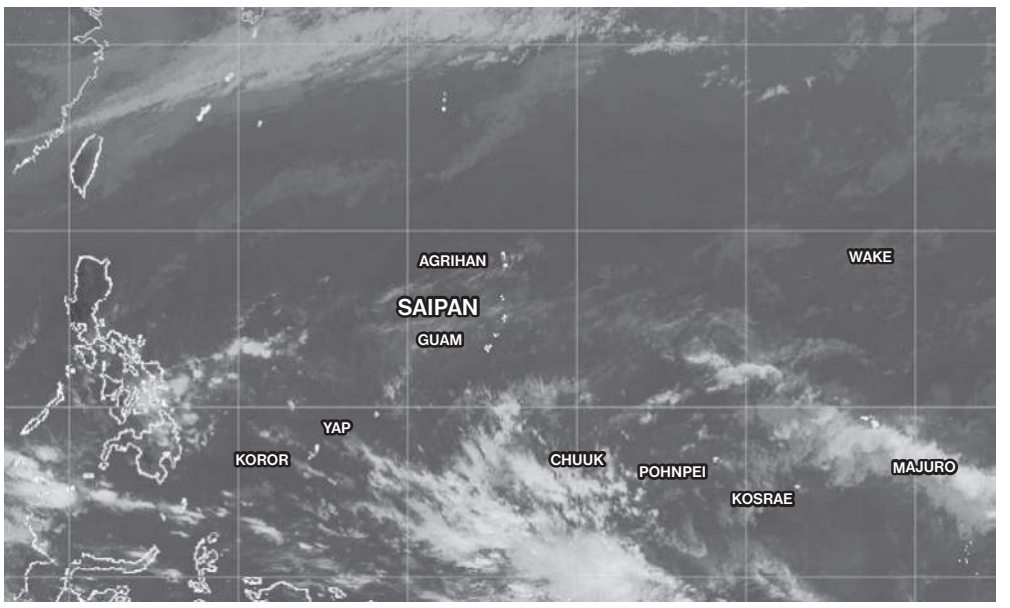
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86º 76º	85º 76	86º 75º	86º 75º	85º 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:36 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Early this morning, the latest Doppler radar imagery and satellite loop shows scattered showers starting to slowly wind down, and this trend will continue through mid morning. Altimetry data also shows seas have subsided to near 8 feet at the Ritidian buoy, slightly less at Ipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:33 AM	18:25 PM
Friday	06:32 AM	18:25 PM
Saturday	06:31 AM	18:25 PM
Sunday	06:31 AM	18:25 PM
Monday	06:30 AM	18:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	06:55	18:57 PM	-
Friday	07:35	19:50 PM	-
Saturday	08:14	20:42 PM	-
Sunday	08:51	21:32 PM	-
Monday	09:29	22:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy 23 / 17 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy 13 / -2 °F
Hong Kong	AM Clouds/PM Sun 21 / 18 °F
Honolulu	PM Thunderstorms 26 / 19 °F
London	Cloudy 13 / 7°F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy 20 / 11 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy 34/ 24 °F
Melbourne	Sunny 30 / 17 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy 26 / 21 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny 6 / -6 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny 12 / 3 °F
Paris	Cloudy 13 / 7 °F
Busan	Sunny 14 / 4 °F
Rome	Cloudy 13 / 3 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny 25 / 8 °F
San Francisco	Rain 13 / 9 °F
Seoul	Sunny 10 / -4 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy 14 / 5 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy 12 / -3 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
02:12 AM	Low Tide	-0.35
08:47 AM	High Tide	1.85
2:41 PM	Low Tide	0.70
7:59 PM	High Tide	1.88

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Changes to gov't vendor services

The Department of Finance is informing all vendors to utilize an upgraded version of Munis and to avail of new services that will enhance user experiences. Vendors can now safely and securely login to their vendor portal using their Google, Apple, Microsoft, or Facebook accounts by going to https://finance.gov.mp/munis-updates/vss.html

Vendors wishing to do business with the CNMI government are required to register in the Vendor Self Service Portal prior to bidding on a solicitation. All businesses that receive payment from the CNMI government must be registered as a vendor through the Vendor Self Service Portal. Additionally, by registering as a vendor you can automatically receive bid notices, have access to billing information and payment history.

"We look forward to continuing our collaborative relationship with Tyler Technologies as we will further upgrade our ERP system," said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig. "We've been able to reduce paper consumption and streamline and modernize the management of our financial systems. We look forward to enhancing our productivity from this new system for many years."

All previously registered vendors will be emailed with instructions and their vendor ID number. For questions about or assistance with Vendor Self Service send an email with contact information to: vendorhelp@dof.gov.mp or call 670) 287-1424/(670) 287-1482.

In 2021 the CNMI Department of Finance, in collaboration with the Office of Information Technology Services, implemented a Vendor Self Service program through the Munis platform. The implementation is part of the ongoing digital transformation process, an initiative by the Department of Finance that is aimed at increasing efficiencies and convenience of CNMI government services.

With the program, vendors have had the capability to:

- Create an account to be entered into the vendor database
- Log in to keep all information current
- Track invoices and payments online at any time
- Browse purchase orders, invoices and 1099 data
- Submit bids on goods and services ***(PR)***

USCIS urges those wishing to adjust their status to apply to change underlying basis

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services encourages eligible applicants to consider requesting to transfer the underlying basis of their adjustment of status application to the first (priority workers) or second (noncitizens in professions with advanced degrees or with exceptional ability) employment-based preference categories, because there is an exceptionally high number of employment-based immigrant visas available in these categories during this fiscal year (October 2021 through September 2022).

The overall employment-based annual limit for fiscal year 2022 is approximately twice as high as usual, because that limit includes all unused family-sponsored visa numbers from fiscal year 2021, which was approximately 140,000.

In addition, under the relevant statute, any visas not required in the fifth employment-based preference category are made available in the first employment-based preference category, and any visas not required in the first employment-based preference category are made available in the second employment-based preference category. ***(USCIS)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-050

Opening Date: February 18, 2022
Closing Date: March 4, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician Senior**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$24,096.00 - $32,529.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Water Division.

Duties:

- May serve as a crew leader to include assigning and monitoring work and providing technical direction.
- Prepares training information and materials for an assigned technical training program for trades staff.
- Performs skilled/certified level operations, in-field installations and/or repairs in assigned service areas.
- Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed.
- Performs preventative maintenance in assigned service areas.
- Assists with maintaining sufficient level of supplies and equipment.
- Generally, is responsible for: Maintaining operating reservoirs and distribution valves; monitoring reservoir level abd water pressure levels;
- Maintaining water wells, booster stations and reservoir stations;
- Responding to customer complaints;
- May serve in lead role installing, maintaining and repairing water lines;
- Monitoring chlorine gas in the water system;
- Maintaining and repairing motors, pumps and other related equipment;
- Gathering water samples;
- Installing and/or replacing water meters; Performing disconnects and reconnects;
- Bleeding fire hydrants;
- Preparing daily progress reports.
- Assures all materials and field activities are in accordance with all applicable standards, codes, specifications and regulations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma (GED), or Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program Adult School Diploma (AS). Level 2 certification for water distribution (or ability to obtain within one year), and 3 years of skilled experience related to area of assignment.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:
- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Trades Licenses and/or Certifications, based on assignment
- Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Certifications, based on assignment.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-047

Opening Date: February 23, 2022
Closing Date: March 8, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Purchasing Technician**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Procurement & Supply**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$22,865.00 to $30,867.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the general supervision of the Purchasing Administrator or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Procurement & Supply Division.

Duties:

- Purchasing records maintenance; purchase order processing; preparing voucher reports, performing data entry; processing quotations; and assisting with vendor relationship management.
- Receives purchase requisition vouchers for materials, parts and/or services and reviews vouchers for complete information and authorization.
- Determines and contacts vendors by phone or sends requests for quotations to vendors via email or fax; monitors due dates for quotations; reviews quotations upon receipt; awards small purchase bids based on lowest cost, lead time, availability, requirements, vendor support and payment terms.
- Processes and distributes purchase orders and related correspondence; enters and updates system records; prepares justification documentation for vendor selection and bid awards; organizes and maintains files and records.
- Monitors and follows up on purchase orders and payment schedules; works with accounts payable on prepayment requirements.
- Coordinates pick-up and delivery of materials, parts and/or services with internal and external customers.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Experience: Four (4) years of experience related to purchasing.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Record keeping methods; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Reviewing documents for completion and appropriate authorization; contacting vendors to gather purchase quotation information; Reviewing quotations for specific criteria and awarding bids for small purchases; Processing and distributing purchase orders and related documents; Updating and maintaining purchase data in system; Monitoring schedules and due dates; Organizing and maintain files and records; Coordinating service deliveries; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-049

Opening Date: February 18, 2022
Closing Date: March 4, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility;
- Provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures;
- Provide assistance in monitoring and complying with regulatory compliance;
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility;
- Identifies issues and operational concerns;
- Performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions.
- Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates.
- Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas.
- Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma (GED), or Adult Basic Education Program Adult School Diploma (AS) and four (4) years of experience related to area of assignment.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in:Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
  - o Trades Licenses and/or certifications, based on assignment.
  - o Water/Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Certifications, based on assignment.
- **Physical Demands:**
  - o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Business

Economic dangers from Russia invasion ripple across the globe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Moscow's war on Ukraine and the ferocious financial backlash it's unleashed are not only inflicting an economic catastrophe on President Vladimir Putin's Russia. The repercussions are also menacing the global economy, shaking financial markets and making life more perilous for everyone from Uzbek migrant workers to European consumers to hungry Yemeni families.

■■■

BEIJING (AP)—Oil prices surged another $5 per barrel on Wednesday after an agreement by the United States and other major governments to release supplies from strategic stockpiles failed to calm market anxiety over Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose $5.24 per barrel to $108.60 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent crude, the international price standard, gained $5.43 to $110.40 per barrel in London.

■■■

Even before Putin's troops invaded Ukraine, the global economy was straining under a range of burdens: Surging inflation. Tangled supply chains. Tumbling stock prices.

The Ukraine crisis both magnified each threat and complicated the potential solutions.

"We are actually in uncharted territory," said Clay Lowery, executive vice president at the Institute of International Finance, a trade group of global banks. "We know there are consequences that we cannot predict."

For now at least, the damage to the overall global economy appears to be relatively slight, if only because Russia and Ukraine are not economic powerhouses. Important as they are as exporters of energy, precious metals, wheat and other commodities, the two together account for less than 2% of the world's gross domestic product. Most major economies have only limited trade exposure to Russia: For the U.S., it's 0.5% of total trade. For China, around 2.4%.

Barring a major escalation of the war—far from impossible—"the effects on the U.S., China and most of the emerging world should be limited," said Adam Slater, lead economist at Oxford Economics. He foresees only a 0.2% drop in global GDP this year.

Still, Russia is a vitally important supplier of oil, natural gas and metals, and higher prices for those commodities are sure to inflict economic damage around the world. Europe relies on Russia for nearly 40% of its natural gas and 25% of its oil. For the European continent, Russia's war has significantly heightened the likelihood of runaway inflation, another economic setback—or both.

Here is a deeper look:

An economic siege

Infuriated by Putin's aggression, the United States and other Western nations have targeted Russia with sanctions of unprecedented breadth and severity for a major economy. They have thrown major Russian banks off the SWIFT international payment system, limited high tech exports to Russia and severely restricted Moscow's use of its foreign currency reserves.

The rapid and unified international retaliation against Russia appeared to catch Putin's regime by surprise.

"The world—or most of it anyway—is laying economic siege to Russia," wrote Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics.

The sanctions quickly caused damage. The Russian ruble plunged to a record low Monday. Depositors lined up at ATMs to try to withdraw their money from the embattled banking system. Cut off from Google Pay and Apple Pay, Russians were stuck at ticket booths at Metro rail lines.

The Institute of International Finance foresees the Russian economy enduring a double-digit contraction this year, worse even than its 7.8% drop in the Great Recession year of 2009.

Oxford Economics said evidence from wars ranging from the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war to the 1999 NATO bombing campaign against Serbia suggests that a staggering collapse of the Russian economy of 50% to 60% is possible.

Hard times for Europe

With its dependence on energy from Russia, Europe's economy is now especially at risk.

Natural gas prices shot up 20% after the war started, on top of earlier increases, and now are roughly six times what they were at the start of 2021. The gas price shock is feeding higher inflation and swelling utility bills. The result is that households have less money to spend, and hopes for a surge in consumer spending resulting from fewer pandemic restrictions and COVID-19 cases have diminished.

Escalating gas prices have caused what economists call "demand destruction" among industrial enterprises, like fertilizer makers, that use a lot of gas and have now slashed production. Farmers are paying more to run machinery and buy fertilizer. Germany's economy, which sagged by 0.7% in the fourth quarter of 2021, would face a technical recession if it shrank again in the first three months of 2022.

The economic downdraft could be offset by an increase in German defense spending. In response to the Russian invasion, Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said the government would commit 100 billion euros ($111 billion) to a special fund for its armed forces and raise defense spending above 2% of GDP.

"The drag from higher prices and the negative confidence affect may lower real GDP growth in the eurozone from 4.3% to 3.7% for 2022," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg bank.

No supply chain relief

The world's unexpectedly robust recovery from the pandemic recession left companies scrambling to find enough raw materials and components to produce goods to meet surging customer demand. Overwhelmed factories, ports and freight yards have meant shortages, shipping delays and higher prices. Disruptions to Russian and Ukrainian industries could delay any return to normal conditions.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, noted that Russia and Ukraine together produce 70% of the world's neon, critical in the making of semiconductors. That is especially worrisome because the world, and automakers in particular, are already enduring a shortage of computer chips.

When Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine eight years ago, neon prices shot up 600%, though Zandi notes that chipmakers have since stockpiled neon and sought alternatives to Russian supplies.

Nation

STATE OF THE UNION:
Biden vows to halt Russia, hits inflation

AP

President Joe Biden shakes hands with Vice President Kamala Harris and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of Calif., after delivering his first State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Addressing a concerned nation and anxious world, President Joe Biden vowed in his first State of the Union address Tuesday night to check Russian aggression in Ukraine, tame soaring U.S. inflation and deal with the fading but still dangerous coronavirus.

Biden declared that he and all members of Congress, whatever their political differences, are joined "with an unwavering resolve that freedom will always triumph over tyranny." He asked lawmakers crowding the House chamber to stand and salute the Ukrainians as he began his speech. They stood and cheered.

It was a notable show of unity after a long year of bitter acrimony between Biden's Democratic coalition and the Republican opposition.

Biden's 62-minute speech, which was split between attention to war abroad and worries at home—reflected the same balancing act he now faces in his presidency. He must marshal allied resolve against Russia's aggression while tending to inflation, COVID-19 fatigue and sagging approval ratings heading into the midterm elections.

Aiming to build on momentum from the speech, Biden will head to Wisconsin on Wednesday in an effort to show Americans that his domestic agenda is working. His vice president and Cabinet members will fan out around the country to amplify the message.

Biden heads again to an old bridge set to be repaired—increasingly a symbol for his administration, tangible evidence of the nation that he's working to update. This time, it's a wrought-iron bridge that connects Duluth, Minn. and Superior, Wisc. across the St. Louis Bay.

The bridge will be replaced using funds from the massive infrastructure plan signed into law last year, a signature piece of bipartisan legislation and proof—Biden says—that the GOP and Democrats can still work together.

In Tuesday's speech, Biden highlighted the bravery of Ukrainian defenders and a newly reinvigorated Western alliance that has worked to rearm the Ukrainian military and cripple Russia's economy through sanctions. He acknowledged costs to the American economy, as well, but warned ominously that without consequences, Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression wouldn't be contained to Ukraine.

"Throughout our history we've learned this lesson – when dictators do not pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos," Biden said. "They keep moving. And, the costs and threats to America and the world keep rising."

As Biden spoke, Russian forces were escalating their attacks in Ukraine, having bombarded the central square of country's second-biggest city and Kyiv's main TV tower, killing at least five people. The Babi Yar Holocaust memorial was also damaged.

Biden announced that the U.S. is following Canada and the European Union in banning Russian planes from its airspace in retaliation for the invasion of Ukraine. He also said the Justice Department was launching a task force to go after Russian oligarchs, whom he called "corrupt leaders who have bilked billions of dollars off this violent regime."

"We are coming for your ill-begotten gains," he said, pledging that the U.S. and European allies were after their yachts, luxury apartments and private jets.

Biden pivoted in his speech from the troubles abroad to those at home. Even before the Russian invasion sent energy costs skyrocketing, prices for American families had been rising, and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hurt families and the country's economy.

Biden outlined plans to address inflation by reinvesting in American manufacturing capacity, speeding supply chains and reducing the burden of childcare and eldercare on workers.

"Too many families are struggling to keep up with the bills," Biden said. "Inflation is robbing them of the gains they might otherwise feel. I get it. That's why my top priority is getting prices under control."

In one sign of national progress on the pandemic, Biden entered the House chamber without a mask, as coronavirus cases decline and new federal guidance tries to nudge the public back to pre-pandemic activities. But there was evidence of ongoing tension as well: The Capitol was newly fenced due to security concerns after last year's insurrection.

Asia

Sydney braces for flash floods

SYDNEY (AP)—Sydney was preparing on Wednesday for dangerous flash flooding as population centers farther north began a massive cleanup operation after record floods that have claimed at least 14 lives along Australia's east coast in recent days.

The torrential rain—as much as 20 centimeters (8 inches)—is forecast for Australia's largest city and surrounding areas late Wednesday and early Thursday, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology said.

"In the Sydney area, we have minor to major flood warnings current," meteorologist Dean Narramore said.

In the New South Wales town of Lismore, 600 kilometers (370 miles) north of Sydney, a fourth death was confirmed on Wednesday as floodwaters drain from homes and searchers knock on doors.

The body of a man, aged in his 70s, was found ion a flooded apartment, a police statement said.

A man's body had been found floating in a main street earlier on Wednesday.

The population of 28,000 people was inundated when Wilsons River peaked Monday afternoon at its highest level since records began in 1880.

Authorities expect the death toll to rise in Lismore and its surrounding areas.

Dozens of suburbs remain flooded in Brisbane, Australia's third-most populous city 750 kilometers (470 miles) north of Sydney, after the river that snakes through its center peaked on Monday.

The Queensland state capital had received 80% of its average annual rainfall within a few days.

The cleanup effort is underway and 8,000 volunteers had enlisted for what is known as the Mud Army, which helps those who were inundated.

Queensland has accounted for nine of the deaths from the flooding disaster that has resulted from a low-pressure system that is moving south.

'Climate change to uproot millions in Asia'

AP

A military truck drives through the water on a flooded toll road following heavy rains in Jakarta, Indonesia, Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The walls of Saifullah's home in northern Jakarta are lined like tree rings, marking how high the floodwaters have reached each year -- some more than four feet from the damp dirt floor.

When the water gets too high, Saifullah, who like many Indonesians only uses one name, sends his family to stay with friends. He guards the house until the water can be drained using a makeshift pump. If the pump stops working, he uses a bucket or just waits until the water recedes.

"It's a normal thing here," Saifullah, 73, said. "But this is our home. Where should we go?"

As the world's most rapidly sinking major city, Jakarta demonstrates how climate change is making more places uninhabitable. With an estimated one-third of the city expected to be submerged in the coming decades – in part because of the rising Java Sea – the Indonesian government is planning to move its capital some 1,240 miles (2,000 kilometers) northeast to the island of Borneo, relocating as many as 1.5 million civil servants.

It's a huge undertaking and part of the mass movement of people that is expected to accelerate in the years ahead.

A staggering 143 million people will likely be uprooted over the next 30 years by rising seas, drought, searing temperatures and other climate catastrophes, according to an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report published Monday by the United Nations.

In Asia, governments are already scrambling to deal with it.

One in three migrants in the world today comes from Asia, which leads the world in the number of people being displaced by extreme weather, largely storms and flooding, according to the report. With rural villages emptying out and megacities like Jakarta at risk, scientists predict migration flows and the need for planned relocations will only grow.

"Under all global warming levels, some regions that are presently densely populated will become unsafe or uninhabitable," the report said.

By one estimate, as many as 40 million people in South Asia may be forced to move over the next 30 years because of a lack of water, crop failure, storm surges and other disasters.

Rising temperatures are of particular concern, said Stanford University environmental scientist Chris Field, who chaired the U.N. report in previous years.

"There are relatively few places on Earth that are simply too hot to live now," he said. "But it's beginning to look like in Asia, there may be more of those in the future and we need to think really hard about the implications of that."

No nation offers asylum or other legal protections to people displaced specifically because of climate change, though the Biden administration has studied the idea.

World

Russia pummels urban areas

AP

An armed man stands by the remains of a Russian military vehicle in Bucha, close to the capital Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's leader decried Russia's escalation of attacks on crowded urban areas as a blatant campaign of terror, while U.S. President Joe Biden warned that if his Russian counterpart weren't made to "pay a price" for the invasion, the aggression wouldn't stop with one country.

"Nobody will forgive. Nobody will forget," Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed after Tuesday's bloodshed on the central square in Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, and the deadly bombing of a TV tower in the capital. He pronounced the attack on the square as "frank, undisguised terror" and a war crime.

A 40-mile (64-kilometer) convoy of hundreds of Russian tanks and other vehicles advanced slowly on Kyiv, the capital city of nearly 3 million people, in what the West feared was a bid by Putin to topple the government and install a Kremlin-friendly regime.

The invading forces also pressed their assault on other towns and cities, including the strategic ports of Odesa and Mariupol in the south.

As the seventh day of the war dawned Wednesday, Russia found itself increasingly isolated, beset by the sanctions that have thrown its economy into turmoil and left the country practically friendless, apart from a few nations like China, Belarus and North Korea.

While the fighting raged, so did the humanitarian toll. Roughly 660,000 people have fled Ukraine, and countless others have taken shelter underground.

The death toll was less clear, with neither Russia nor Ukraine releasing the number of troops lost. The U.N. human rights office said it has recorded 136 civilian deaths, though the actual toll is surely far higher.

One senior Western intelligence official estimated that 5,000 Russian soldiers had been captured or killed in the biggest ground war in Europe since World War II.

Many military experts worry that Russia may be shifting tactics. Moscow's strategy in Chechnya and Syria was to use artillery and air bombardments to pulverize cities and crush fighters' resolve.

Britain's Defense Ministry said it had seen an increase in Russian air and artillery strikes on populated urban areas over the past two days. It also said three cities—Kharkiv, Kherson and Mariupol—were encircled by Russian forces.

Ukrainian authorities said five people were killed in the attack on the TV tower, near central Kyiv. A TV control room and power substation were hit, and at least some Ukrainian channels briefly stopped broadcasting, officials said.

Russia previously told people living near transmission facilities used by Ukraine's intelligence agency to leave their homes.

Zelenskyy's office also reported a missile attack Tuesday on the site of the Babi Yar Holocaust memorial, near the tower. A spokesman for the memorial said a Jewish cemetery at the site, where Nazi occupiers killed more than 33,000 Jews over two days in 1941, was damaged, but the extent would not be clear until daylight.

In Kharkiv, with a population of about 1.5 million, at least six people were killed when the region's administrative building on Freedom Square was hit with what was believed to be a missile. The Slovenian Foreign Ministry said its consulate in Kharkiv, located in another large building on the square, was destroyed.

The attack on Freedom Square—the nucleus of public life in the city—was seen by many Ukrainians as brazen evidence that the Russian invasion wasn't just about hitting military targets but also about breaking their spirit.

The bombardment blew out windows and walls of buildings that ring the square, which was piled high with debris and dust. Inside one building, chunks of plaster were scattered, and doors lay across hallways.

"People are under the ruins. We have pulled out bodies," said Yevhen Vasylenko, an emergency official.

Another Russian airstrike hit a residential area in the city of Zhytomyr. Ukraine's emergency services said Tuesday's strike killed at least two people, burned three homes and broke the windows in a nearby hospital. About 85 miles (140 kilometers) west of Kyiv, Zhytomyr is the home of the elite 95th Air Assault Brigade, which may have been the intended target.

Zelenskyy has mocked Russia's claim that it is going after only military targets, noting that 16 children were killed on Monday.

"Where are the children? What kind of military factories do they work at? What tanks are they going at?" Zelenskyy said.

Human Rights Watch said it documented a cluster bomb attack outside a hospital in Ukraine's east in recent days. Residents also reported the use of such weapons in Kharkiv and Kiyanka village. The Kremlin denied using cluster bombs.

Environment

100% 'extinction risk' for endemic species on small islands

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Storm surges, sea level rise, flooding, coral bleaching, intense tropical cyclones, droughts—these are just a few of the observed impacts and projected risks climate change has on small islands, according to the report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change just last Monday.

The latest report bares a desolate future for people living on the islands, whose vulnerability is amplified as terrestrial and marine ecosystems continue to xdegrade "due to negative human impacts."

»IPCC report: Climate-related migration to increase

House Natural Resources committee chair Rep. Sheila Babauta, in an interview, told Saipan Tribune that the report released by IPCC is more than concerning. The IPCC warns of massive declines in population by 2100, with an "extinction risk of 100% for endemic species within insular biodiversity hotspots" including within the Pacific region, for a warming higher than 3°C.

"This is scary," Babauta said. "They're talking about the extinction of our people. This means that here in the CNMI, we need to respond with a sense of urgency. We need to create a plan. We need to organize and we need to stand in solidarity with other indigenous communities who face the same scary, real outcome—extinction."

Ready to be a climate refugee?

An increase in climate-related migration is expected, according to the IPCC, as the climate change "impacts to low-lying coastal areas present serious threats to the ability of land to support human life and livelihood."

For small islands relying on coral reef systems for livelihoods, like the CNMI, adaptation limits are projected to be exceeded before 2100, with the report painting a scenario of severe coral bleaching every year before 2040, where there will be a 99% loss of corals under a warming of 2.5°C or higher above the pre-industrial period.

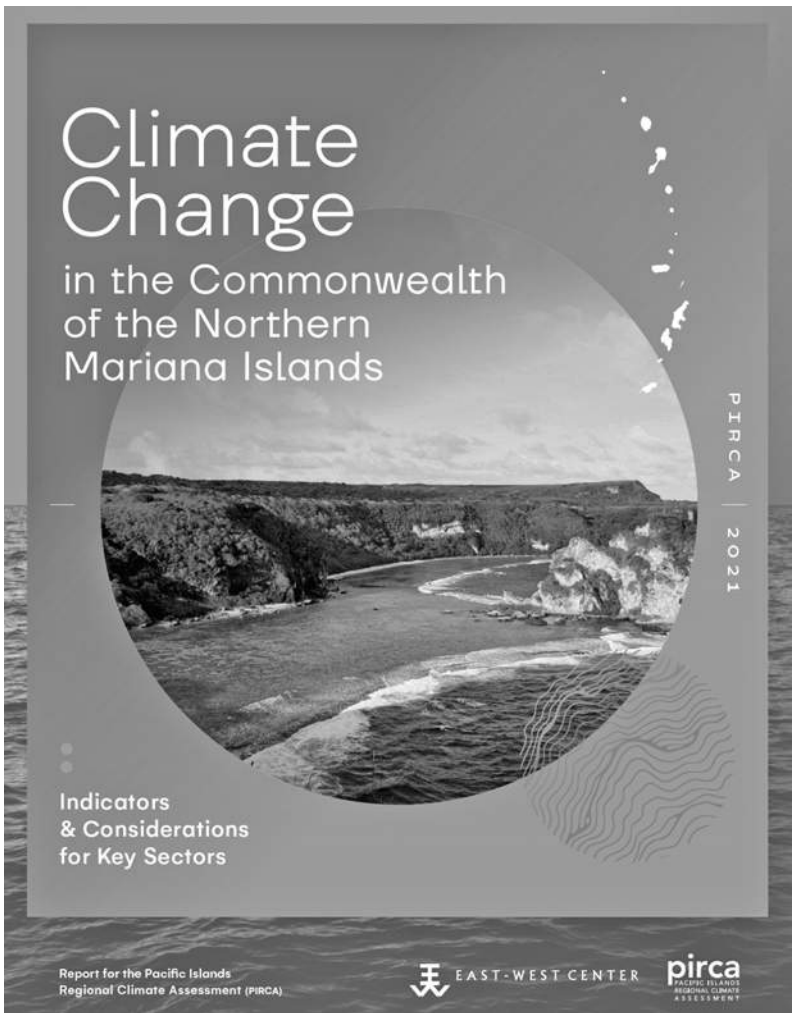
This projection supports the Climate Change in the CNMI report published last year for the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment, which stated that unless coral species adapt to the warming of the ocean, the CNMI will begin to experience severe bleaching beginning in about 2030.

With coral reefs and ocean ecosystems contributing to over $100 million annually to the economy—not to mention the fact that coral reefs provide and protect the CNMI coasts from waves and storms, and provides for livelihood and food security for the community—the need to act is more than urgent.

Food and water insecurities are also projected, including a decline of over 50% in the maximum fish catch potential by 2100, relative to 1980 to 2000. This is also supported by the PIRCA Climate Change report for the CNMI, which also highlighted the damage caused by recent major typhoons to crops, pollinators, ranchers, and farms.

As the ecosystem degrades, resources in small islands are also expected to decrease, impacting health, culture, the economy, food and water security—triggering migration.

What can we do?


Climate Change
in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PIRCA | 2021
Indicators & Considerations for Key Sectors
Report for the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA)
EAST-WEST CENTER
pirca

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Climate Change measures and recommendations are available for policymakers and key stakeholders in the CNMI from the Climate Change in the CNMI: Indicators and Considerations for Key Sectors report, published last year by the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment.

While there are leaders in conservation and environmental management who are doing mitigation work to combat the effects of climate change on island, it is also "very important" that the CNMI be represented in "spaces where big decisions are being made, standing in solidarity with other indigenous groups in the fight to combat the climate crisis," according to Babauta.

"One way we can do that is share our perspective and our experience with the United States military. … Because we have that unique relationship that has existed for decades, we have this opportunity to advocate for ourselves and for indigenous communities around the world."

"The United States military is the largest polluter and largest consumer of fossil fuels in the whole world and they are exempt from many of the environmental policies, including policies that help protect our natural resources here in the CNMI, and they are exempt from reporting their emissions," the legislator added.

The IPCC issued a Summary for Policymakers, which lays down—for leaders, key stakeholders, and policymakers all around the world—the observed and projected impacts and risks of climate change and the adaptation measures that can be implemented.

For small islands, these adaptation options include better governance and legal reforms; improving justice, equity, and gender considerations; increased finance and risk transfer mechanisms; building human resource capacity; education and awareness programs; and integrating indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, and cultural resources into the decision-making processes.

For policymakers and stakeholders in the CNMI, in particular, the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment issued a report laying out indicators and action considerations that can be implemented by the CNMI to address climate change head on.

The PIRCA report, Climate Change in the CNMI: Indicators and Considerations for Key Sectors, can be accessed by visiting https://www.eastwestcenter.org/publications/climate-change-in-the-commonwealth-the-northern-mariana-islands-indicators-and. For the full IPCC report, visit https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/.

Green sea turtle nesting, tagging records set in 2021

Sea turtle biologists from the University of Guam Sea Grant program documented two new records of green sea turtle activity in Guam shores last year.

Biologist duo Addie Ferguson and Leilani Sablan reported more than 200 nesting emergences by the endangered green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas, or haggan in CHamoru) in 2021, up from 100 to 150 emergences reported in 2019 and 2020.

Setting another record, they tagged nearly 10 nesting females in 2021, contributing to a collective 20 turtles tagged since the tagging project began in 2014.

The team conducts their research at one of Guam's largest nesting grounds. This is made possible through a cooperative agreement between UOG, Joint Region Marianas, and Andersen Air Force Base and is aligned with JRM's Section 10 Endangered Species Permit. The permit allows for authorized biologists to work with endangered species after having met certain experience criteria for research and species recovery purposes. The project is further supported by personnel from the 36th Civil Engineering Squadron's environmental flight.

According to Ferguson, the particular area is popular among nesting turtles due to its seclusion and lack of development. Sea turtle nests have been reported in the location since the 1970s.

Going into a ninth recorded nesting season, Ferguson and Sablan have actively monitored nests until signs of hatching are observed. They tag nesting females during night surveys, when suitable, and examine nests to determine hatching and emergence success rates.

"Observing high nesting records is a really good sign that our nesting population is doing well. So far, we have been seeing an upward trajectory throughout nesting seasons, inferring that our nesting population may be increasing steadily," Sablan said.

Ferguson said the data will help them gain a better understanding of green sea turtle nesting population trends and that they hope to see the trend continue in the years to come.

This year, they anticipate deploying 30 temperature data loggers within the nests, which will allow them to better understand the hatchlings' sex ratio. Further, they intend to satellite tag two nesting females to more clearly determine the species' migration patterns.

Understanding the importance of community awareness and support in their research journey, the team conducts sea turtle outreach activities throughout the island with presentations for students of all grade levels and exhibits at various events.

"We are always looking for new ways to educate Guam's community about an endangered species we are so fortunate to work with. We hope our research shapes the way stakeholders and future generations think about sustainability regarding marine life," Ferguson said.

"Being local and knowing haggan are culturally significant to our people makes it feel like I'm fulfilling an inherent responsibility of helping to preserve this species for future generations of CHamoru," Sablan said. "It's like taking care of something our ancestors passed on to us, and I'm really happy to be putting in the work."

Ferguson is encouraged to contribute to what limited information is available about green sea turtles in the region.

"I'm thrilled to be continuing my research with Sea Grant. There is still so much to learn and many aspects to study regarding sea turtles in Guam, especially. There is little published research on sea turtles, specifically in the Marianas. We are constantly learning more about our haggan population here, and that makes me excited for what the future of sea turtle research will look like in Guam for decades to come," Ferguson said. ***(PR)***

Leilani Sablan, University of Guam Sea Grant biologist, finds live green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) hatchlings during a nest inventory in 2021. Sablan and fellow biologist, Addie Ferguson, reported a new record of more than 200 green sea turtle nesting emergences in 2021, an increase from the 100 to 150 emergences observed in 2019 and 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Life & Style

Cultural backlash intensifies against Russia over invasion

ROME (AP)—The cultural backlash against Russia's invasion of Ukraine intensified Tuesday as the Cannes Film Festival said no Russian delegations would be welcome this year and the Venice festival announced free screenings of a film about the 2014 conflict in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.

The announcements by Europe's two premier film festivals came on the heels of other high-profile protests in the arts, including Hollywood's decision to pull films scheduled for release in Russia and the Munich Philharmonic's decision to fire chief conductor Valery Gergiev. The orchestra, joined by other orchestras and festivals linked to Gergiev, cited his support for Russian President Vladimir Putin and his refusal to reject the invasion.

Cannes, which is scheduled for May, is the most global of film festivals and its international village of flag-waving pavilions annually hosts more than 80 countries from around the world.

In a statement, festival organizers said the ban on any official Russian delegation or individuals linked to the Kremlin would remain "unless the war of assault ends in conditions that will satisfy the Ukrainian people."

The festival didn't rule out accepting films from Russia. In recent years, Cannes has showcased films from filmmakers like Kirill Serebrennikov, even though the director hasn't been unable to attend. Serebrennikov is under a three-year travel ban after being accused of embezzlement by the Russian government in a case that was protested by the Russian artistic community and in Europe.

Hollywood continued pulling its films out of Russian theaters. After the Walt Disney Co., Warner Bros. and Sony announced they would halt distributing films in Russia, including Warner's highly anticipated "The Batman," Paramount Pictures announced likewise on Tuesday. That includes upcoming releases like "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" and "The Lost City."

The Venice Film Festival, meanwhile, said it was organizing free screenings of the film "Reflection," about the conflict in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region as a sign of solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The screenings are scheduled for next week in Rome, Milan and Venice.

The film, which was presented in competition at Venice last year, tells the story of a Ukrainian surgeon who is taken prisoner by Russia during the Donbas conflict in eastern Ukraine. In 2014, Russia threw its weight behind an insurgency in the mostly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine region known as Donbas, where Russia-backed rebels seized government buildings and proclaimed the creation of

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, presents a medal to then Mariinsky Theatre's Artistic Director Valery Gergiev, during an awarding ceremony in Moscow's Kremlin, Russia, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016.

Quills and thrills as prodigious porcupine puppet unveiled

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was a quilling experience for all.

Percy, a porcupine puppet of prodigious proportions, emerged from her giant stump home for an audience of schoolchildren and media members at a Los Angeles park on Tuesday.

The adorable beast inspired oohs and awwws as she blinked her droopy eyes and opened her mouth to show her buck teeth. She stood nearly two stories tall with a nose the size of a Volkswagen.

A joint project of the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and Jim Henson's Creature Shop, Percy was let out to celebrate next week's opening of the zoo's new Wildlife Explorers Basecamp.

Six months in the planning, the puppet is modeled on the prehensile-tailed porcupine, native to South America. It has a circumference of nearly 40 feet (12 meters), and has 2,000 foam quills that it took a house-worth of paint to put stripes on.

"We've done some fantasy creatures a little bit bigger, but in terms of duplicating an animal it's the biggest we've ever done," said Peter Brooke, creative supervisor for Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

The prehensile tail that gives the tree-dwelling, fruit-eating species its name exists in this case in the imagination only. Just the front half exists and pokes out, the rest appearing to stay safely inside the log.

"It's essentially based on a big inflatable with the addition of a mouth, a jaw and mechanical eyes," Brooke said.

A real prehensile-tailed porcupine was at the scene at Elysian Park near Dodger Stadium. The porcupine got "lost" before emerging in her giant puppet form, after the kids brought out bunches of bananas to lure her.

Russian radio station taken off air over Ukraine coverage

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian radio station critical of the Kremlin was taken off the airwaves on Tuesday, its chief editor said and The Associated Press confirmed, after authorities threatened to shut it down over its coverage of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The move against Echo Moskvy, one of Russia's oldest radio stations, comes amid growing pressure on Russia's independent media to follow the Kremlin's official line while covering the invasion of Ukraine.

Russian authorities also threatened to block Dozhd, Russia's top independent TV channel. The Prosecutor General's office accused the two media outlets of spreading content that incites extremist activities, as well as "false information regarding the actions of Russian military personnel as part of a special operation" in Ukraine.

The Prosecutor General's office said actions taken against the two outlets would include "immediate shutdown."

The websites of Ekho Moskvy and Dozhd remained available to internet users in Moscow on Tuesday evening. However, Russia's communications and media watchdog Roskomnadzor confirmed to the Interfax news agency that it restricted access to the sites.

Alexei Venediktov, chief editor of Ekho Moskvy, rejected the accusations, saying they "are not supported by any examples, any evidence (and) are unfounded and offensive to journalists and citizens of Russia."

The station "will contest this decision in court," Venediktov said.

"We see a political component in it, as well as the introduction of censorship, which is directly prohibited by the Russian Constitution," he said.

Dozhd issued a statement rejecting the accusations against the TV channel, saying it "strictly follows Russian laws in its coverage."

Drug abuse, bad finances derail caregiver's life

DEAR ABBY: I'm conflicted about a relationship I have developed with a 77-year-old lady I'll call "Martha." I have been acting as her caregiver.

For the first three years, I was addicted to pain pills, which Martha and I both get. I was so strung out I didn't realize what kind of person she was. She expects me to be there every free minute, which, under different circumstances, would be fine. But I have a husband and a dog. I have since gotten sober, while Martha is still strung out. She threatens to destroy my life if I won't do what she wants, and I'm scared to quit because we have loans together.

How do I start having a healthy balance with her and my life? Now that I'm sober, I realize how badly she has been treating me the whole time. Can you please advise me how to distance from her?

SOBER WOMAN IN GEORGIA

DEAR SOBER WOMAN: For the sake of your sobriety, your relationship with Martha must end. Do not allow yourself to be blackmailed into continuing one with her. She needs to find another caregiver, and you need to find another job. Because your name is on those loans, you may be obligated to pay them off if she doesn't. This is why you should discuss this mess with an attorney. That Martha still abuses her meds means you may have some leverage.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I argue about returning gifts his parents give us. They are well-off and buy excessively for their grandkids throughout the year, especially at holidays. They also buy multiple gifts for my husband and me. We are drowning in too much stuff and constantly battling clutter in our home.

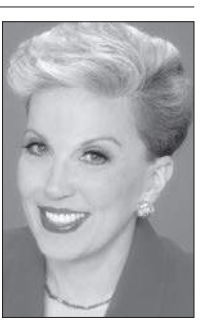
None of these gifts are from our family's wish lists, nor are they particularly thoughtful. In years past, I have asked my mother-in-law to limit her purchases to three gifts—one toy, one outfit, one book—with no success. I also have pleaded with her to stop buying me small knickknacks, and have suggested more experience-based gifts. Still, year after year, we come home with a bunch of stuff we neither need nor want.

How can I get my in-laws to respect our wishes? To make matters worse, my husband becomes defensive of his parents when I get frustrated, even though he fundamentally agrees with me. How do I help his parents understand that what they are really giving us is a fight? And, if none of them care about my wishes, how do I get past feeling disrespected and disregarded?

BURIED IN STUFF

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

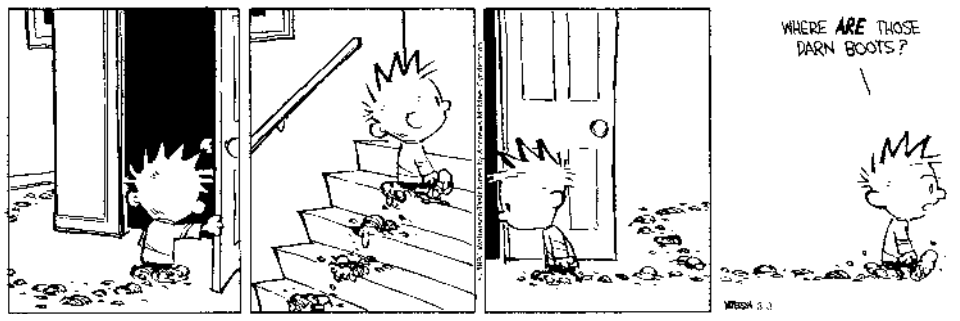
DEAR BURIED: By now you should have realized that your mother-in-law, "Lady Bountiful," isn't going to change. You will spend less time being frustrated if you let go of your resentment about her spending sprees. My heartfelt advice to you is to develop a sense of humor where she's concerned. If you can't use her gifts, donate, regift or sell them.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW DOES SKETCHY'S DAY GO SO WRONG?
KEEP READING.
SO JOHNNY DONUT LOVER COMES INTO THE STORE AND SKETCHY GOES ALL OUT.
PICK ME!
I'M THE JELLIEST!
JOHNNY PICKS HIM. SKETCHY'S THRILLED.
YES! THIS IS HAPPENING!
WAIT. JOHNNY BOUGHT ONE DONUT?
TWO DOZEN. HIS NAME'S JOHNNY DONUT LOVER, DAD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

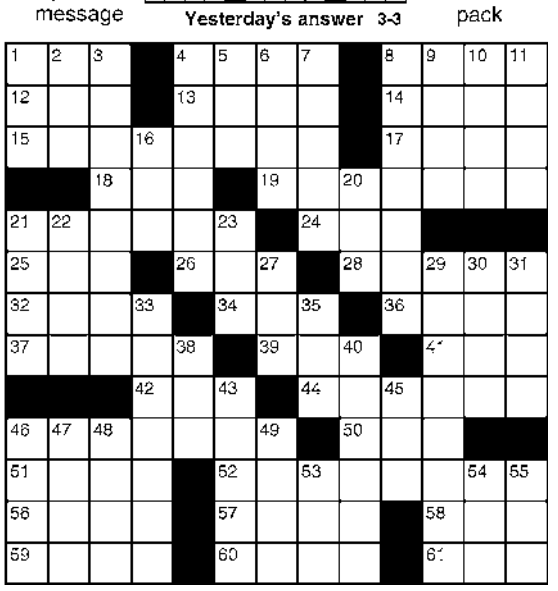
ACROSS
1 "Lion" star Patel
4 Panorama
8 Corvette roof option
12 Glass of public radio
13 Novelist Brontë
14 Cod cousin
15 Orange variety
17 Hibernia
18 — polloi
19 Succumbed to gravity
21 Flora
24 California's Big —
25 Squeak stopper
26 Candied veggie
28 Equip anew
32 Pretzel topper
34 Morning moisture
36 Viral video, e.g.
37 Cybermessage
39 — Royal Highness
41 Airline to Sweden
42 Speck
44 Repair a roof
46 Dry white wine
50 Brit. record label
51 Mata —
52 Consent
56 Oodles
57 Grate
58 Turkish title
59 Some wines
60 China setting
61 Journal

DOWN
1 Mil. group
2 Mound stat
3 Odin's realm
4 Dressing table
5 Business mag
6 Oklahoma city
7 Dons
8 Math proof
9 Rain-delay cover
10 Tom Joad, for one
11 Hang in the balance
16 A gazillion years
20 Couple's pronoun
21 Stance
22 Actor Hemsworth
23 Feeling down
27 "I'm not impressed"
29 Word with film or music
30 Apple desktop computer
31 New Age pianist John
33 Morsels
35 Humorist
38 Online guffaw
40 Everest guide
43 Pageant crown
45 Latin 101 word
46 Scorch
47 Robust
48 Yankee nickname
49 Hot tubs
53 Omega preceder
54 Previously
55 Trail the pack

Solution time: 24 mins.

E	T	A		S	P	A	S		E	R	G	S
R	O	M		C	O	⁻	T		M	O	O	T
⁻	D	O		R	I	S	F	A	B	O	V	F
C	O	S	M	O			T	I	L			
			O	L	G	A		D	E	F	O	G
R	E	D	A	L	E	R	T		M	A	R	E
A	G	O		S	A	C	H	A		U	A	R
G	A	R	B		R	E	A	R	A	X	L	E
A	D	M	I	T		D	I	A	S			
			N	E	W			M	S	N	B	C
R	U	R	A	L	A	R	E	A		O	R	O
A	F	A	R		N	A	V	I		T	I	N
T	O	N	Y		S	P	E	C		E	E	K

Yesterday's answer 3-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Biel, 40; Julie Bowen, 52; Tone Loc, 56; Jackie Joyner-Kersee, 60.

Happy Birthday: Draw on all your resources. Be a leader, and incorporate your experience, knowledge and skills into making your life and future better. Consider the possibilities, and aim to make your dreams come true. Opportunity knocks, and being ready to take the plunge and take advantage of whatever comes your way will pay off. Romance, personal growth and self-improvement are featured. Your numbers are 8, 12, 19, 27, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your secrets to yourself. Sharing too much information will disrupt your relationship with someone in a position to influence your future. Finish paperwork in order to avoid a fine or loss. A discrepancy will leave you at a physical disadvantage. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Someone's change of heart will put you in a good position regarding your plans. Emphasize the differences you want to make and how you can achieve your goal. You will receive the help you need. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't trust what others profess they can do or offer you. Think for yourself and proceed with your plans, regardless of temptation. Intelligence and practicality will help you advance; not a scheme someone presents. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Formulate a plan and follow through. You can bring about change that will improve your chance to advance. Expand your mind, experience and skills to qualify for a position that excites you. Take advantage of an opportunity. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Avoid getting into a compromising position. Keep your thoughts to yourself, and don't sign up for something foreign to you. Take care of unfinished business before you decide to start something new. Put your needs first. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* It's up to you to make a change. Trust your instincts, and follow your heart. Enhance a meaningful relationship by spending quality time nurturing and building a stronger connection. A lifestyle change looks promising. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Go over all your options and consider what's doable, affordable and to your benefit long-term. Don't back yourself into a corner because you don't know how to say no. Procrastination is the enemy when trying to reach your destination. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep everyone guessing until you are ready to make your move. Explore the possibilities of changing your residence, lifestyle or direction. Let your creative side take over, develop a plan that takes you on an adventure. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Proceed with caution. Someone will be eager to make you look bad or take advantage of you. Choose your words carefully, and don't make promises you don't want to keep. Dig in and concentrate on what's best for you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Set out to achieve your dreams, and you will find a way to reach your goal. Being adaptable will help you adjust to the necessary changes to what you are trying to pursue. Romance will enhance your day. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Expect contradictions and be ready to counter with truth and plans. Control situations before someone tries to take over. Be respectful of others, but don't let them walk all over you. Do what brings you joy and peace of mind. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Refuse to let red tape hold you back. Double-check to ensure all documents are ready in order to avoid setbacks. Take the initiative by putting your ideas and plans into play. New beginnings are within reach; all you must do is make them happen. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, outgoing and entertaining. You are original and mysterious.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		1			2		
2							4	
			2	7				8
5		3	6	9				
		7	4		5	6		
				1	7	8		2
9				5	3			
	7							3
		2			6		9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/03

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	8	9	4	1	2	7	5
2	4	5	7	6	3	8	9	1
1	9	7	2	5	8	6	3	4
6	8	9	1	3	4	5	2	7
7	2	1	6	9	5	3	4	8
5	3	4	8	2	7	9	1	6
9	5	3	4	1	6	7	8	2
8	1	6	3	7	2	4	5	9
4	7	2	5	8	9	1	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

A DEGREE IN AFRICAN STUDIES **Solution: 8 letters**

D	S	U	O	I	G	I	L	E	R	D	R	S	L	E
S	I	P	L	A	C	I	T	I	L	O	P	P	A	T
E	T	S	I	I	H	T	H	E	O	S	O	E	B	A
C	C	N	S	H	S	T	I	T	Ⓣ	T	R	C	O	R
O	I	U	E	E	S	F	L	R	Ⓢ	S	I	I	L	G
N	M	N	W	D	R	R	A	A	Ⓐ	E	G	A	G	I
O	E	I	E	R	U	T	A	R	Ⓔ	T	I	L	R	M
M	D	M	S	M	E	T	A	L	E	H	N	I	A	A
I	A	N	P	G	A	L	S	T	O	A	S	Z	D	R
C	C	R	I	I	H	A	T	K	I	H	S	E	U	G
O	A	E	O	T	R	G	T	N	I	O	C	D	A	O
U	S	D	U	T	H	E	O	R	Y	L	N	S	T	R
R	C	O	N	G	O	L	S	A	U	R	L	I	E	P
S	S	M	H	T	Y	H	R	E	E	T	A	B	E	D
E	C	U	L	T	U	R	A	L	C	S	H	A	R	E

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Academic, Areas, Cinema, Congo, Course, Cultural, Debate, Dissertation, East, Economic, Empires, Field, Global, Graduate, Health, Learn, Legal, Literature, Migrate, Modern, Music, Origins, Political, Program, Religious, Rhythms, Root, Scholarships, Share, Skill, South, Specialized, Strategies, Students, Tests, Theory, Truth, West

Yesterday's Answer: Catering

The NEW **Treasuries 46 and 47** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Mavericks blow big lead, rally to hold off Lakers, 109-104

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luka Doncic scored seven of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, Jalen Brunson added 22 points and the Dallas Mavericks rallied for a 109-104 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

Dorian Finney-Smith had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks, who hung on for their eighth win in 10 games after blowing a huge early lead on the struggling Lakers.

Dallas trailed 100-94 with seven minutes to play before scoring 11 consecutive points in a rally kicked off by Brunson's fourth 3-pointer. Doncic went 9 of 21 and looked significantly less sharp than in most previous games during his monthlong scoring tear, but made enough big baskets to win it.

LeBron James scored 26 points and Carmelo Anthony had 20 for the Lakers, who took their sixth loss in seven games despite erasing a 21-point deficit in just over 12 thrilling minutes spanning halftime.

Despite giving a much better effort against Dallas than in its most recent games, Los Angeles has lost 15 of 21 to slide a season-worst seven games below .500, with even its position in the postseason play-in tournament looking increasingly tenuous. Los Angeles is 0-3 since the All-Star break.

Two nights after the Lakers were booed by their home fans in a lifeless blowout loss to New Orleans, James and his teammates had the crowd applauding their effort and comeback — but the result was the same.

Dallas wrapped up a five-game road trip with four victories, but only after surviving a largely poor second half.

The Mavs jumped to their big lead during a first half highlighted by Doncic's incendiary one-handed putback dunk over Dwight Howard late in the first quarter.

The first half looked like another wreck for the Lakers, who got three technical fouls for arguing amid their missed shots and lapsed defense. Coach Frank Vogel, Kent Bazemore and Russell Westbrook, who missed eight of his first nine shots, all got rung up.

But Los Angeles made a 22-7 run out of halftime and pulled even with cold-shooting Dallas on James' 3-pointer.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Malik Monk, right, shoots as Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Raptors 109, Nets 108

In Toronto, Scottie Barnes had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Gary Trent Jr. scored 24 and the Toronto Raptors rallied to beat Brooklyn 109-108 on Tuesday night for their second win over the struggling Nets in two days.

Pascal Siakam fouled out with 18 points and Malachi Flynn scored 15 for the Raptors, who were coming off a 133-97 victory in Brooklyn on Monday.

Thaddeus Young and Khem Birch each had 11 points for Toronto. Trent went 9 for 9 at the free-throw line.

James Johnson scored 19 points, Seth Curry had 18 and LaMarcus Aldridge added 16 for the Nets. Cam Thomas had 11 and Goran Dragic scored 10.

Celtics 107, Hawks 98

In Boston, Jayson Tatum had 33 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to help Boston rally in the second half and beat Atlanta.

Derrick White and Grant Williams each added 18 points off the bench. Marcus Smart finished with 16 points and four assists.

Boston has won 10 of its last 12 and three of four since the All-Star break.

Trae Young had 31 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic added 25 for the Hawks, who have lost two of three.

Timberwolves 129, Warriors 114

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 39 points and nine rebounds for Minnesota, which had its offense humming inside and out in a victory over sputtering Golden State in a potential playoff series preview.

D'Angelo Russell pitched in 22 points, and Malik Beasley added 20 points on 6-for-9 shooting from 3-point range for Minnesota. The Timberwolves owned a 54-42 edge in points in the paint, too, with the banged-up Warriors mostly out of answers for slowing Towns down around the basket.

Stephen Curry led Golden State with 34 points, but the league's career leader in 3-point shooting went just 5 for 16 from long range with several of his heaves way off the mark. Gary Payton II added 14 points for the Warriors, who have the NBA's second-best record but have lost six of eight games.

The Timberwolves (34-29), who entered the evening 3 1/2 games out of the No. 6 spot in the Western Conference with the play-in avoidance that comes with it, played without Anthony Edwards because of knee tendinitis. They still won their sixth straight game against the Warriors at home, never minding their 11-game losing streak to Golden State on the road for now, and moved a season-best five games above the .500 mark.

Clippers 113, Rockets 100

In Houston, Ivica Zubac had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and Los Angeles pulled away in the third quarter and cruised over Houston.

The Clippers used a 40-point third quarter to take a 14-point lead entering the fourth. They then scored the first seven points of the final period, with five from Amir Coffey, to make it 96-75 with 10 ½ minutes to go.

Zubac and fellow starters Reggie Jackson, Marcus Morris and Nicolas Batum didn't play in the fourth quarter with the game out of reach.

The Rockets got 20 points from rookie Jalen Green as their skid reached 10 games. Houston, which has the worst record in the Western Conference, has won just once in the last 15 games.

Wizards 116, Pistons 113

In Washington, Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points and Thomas Bryant added 16, and Washington Wizards won its 14th straight home meeting with Detroit.

It's the longest home winning streak against any team in franchise history. The Wizards pulled within a game of idle Charlotte for 10th place in the Eastern Conference.

Jerami Grant scored 26 points for Detroit, which had a chance to tie on its final possession. Saddiq Bey missed from the perimeter, and after an offensive rebound, Killian Hayes missed a 3-pointer.

The Beard is here: Philly hype for James Harden's home debut

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—James Harden wrapped a resistance band around his upper torso and took off. He sprinted the length of the basketball court and repeated the drill designed to build strength and endurance.

With the 76ers in championship-or-bust mode, Harden needs both traits if he wants to carry the team into June.

But parade talk can wait: Philly is in a tizzy over Harden's impending home debut. Almost three weeks since he was acquired in a trade, two road games, billboards welcoming his arrival, and a spawning cottage industry of "Beard" T-shirts later, Harden will finally play in Philly for the Sixers on Wednesday night against the New York Knicks.

Much like the beard that's as synonymous with Harden as his skillful scoring, anticipation is growing.

So are ticket prices.

The cheap seats start at $100 on the secondary market and the Wells Fargo Center will surely have a playoff feel for what would have been an otherwise routine weeknight game without Harden.

AP

Philadelphia 76ers' James Harden practices at the NBA basketball team's facility, in Camden, N.J., Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

"It's going to be turnt in there," Harden said over the weekend, "and I'm ready for it."

Harden was the last Sixer off the court after Tuesday's practice, sharing laughs with All-Star center Joel Embiid and jamming to music during shooting drills with assistant coach Sam Cassell.

"The city's excited. We're excited," coach Doc Rivers said.

With good reason.

Harden, the 2018 NBA MVP, in his short sample size has impressed as expected. He had 27 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds in his debut against Minnesota and followed with 29 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds against the Knicks. The number that matters most: 2-0. The issue that matters most: Philly is free of the Ben Simmons saga that weighed on the franchise until the All-Stars were traded for each other.

"This is not a forced-together team. This is a want-to-be-together team," Rivers said. "We get to be together and we want to be together. I think that's a good thing."

Tobias Harris' production dipped in those two games -- he went 5 of 18 combined after taking 20 shots in the 76ers' last game without Harden. Tyrese Maxey, meanwhile, has benefited the most from Harden's arrival. He went 12 of 16 against the Timberwolves thanks in large part to fastbreak points instigated by Harden and catch-and-shoot 3s against the Knicks off Harden kick-outs. Embiid, Harden and Maxey combined for 176 points in their first two games together, the most for any debuting trio in the NBA since 1961.

MLB cancels opening day after sides fail to end lockout

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Major League Baseball's financial fight cost regular-season games for the first time in 27 years when often acrimonious talks to end a management lockout collapsed Tuesday and Commissioner Rob Manfred scrapped March 31 openers.

With owners and players unable to agree on a contract to replace the collective bargaining agreement that expired Dec. 1, Manfred canceled the first two series for each of the 30 teams, cutting each club's schedule from 162 games to likely 156 at most. A total of 91 games were erased.

"We exhausted every possibility of reaching an agreement before the cancellation of games," Manfred said during a news conference in the left-field corner of Roger Dean Stadium as fans outside the spring training home of the Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals chanted: "We want baseball!"

AP

Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred gestures as he answers questions during a news conference after negotiations with the players' association toward a labor deal, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Fla.

Five miles away and 90 minutes later, the players' association held its own news conference at a hotel, with union head Tony Clark and chief negotiator Bruce Meyer flanked by pitchers Max Scherzer and Andrew Miller — both members of the union's eight-man executive subcommittee — and Noah Syndergaard seated among about a dozen players in the audience.

"This has been making in the years, seeing things that have happened over the course specifically of this last CBA," Scherzer said, "things that have happened to different players in certain situations, that we absolutely have to have corrections."

Manfred vowed players will not receive salary or major league service for games missed, exacerbating already visceral anger of the roughly 1,200 players locked into a contest of will against 30 controlling owners. Manfred maintained daily interleague play made rescheduling impossible.

"To say they won't reschedule games if games are canceled or they won't pay players for those games that are canceled is solely their position," Meyer said. "We would have a different position."

Talks that began last April went nowhere, and MLB locked out players Dec. 2 in the sport's first work stoppage since 1995. There were just six economic negotiating sessions over the next 2 1/2 months in New York, but more intensive talks began Feb. 21 in Florida.

After 13 negotiating sessions over 16 1/2 hours Monday, the sides recessed at 2:30 a.m. having made progress but still far apart on key economic issues.

Tone changed with the daylight, and the league sent the players what it termed a "best offer" on the ninth straight day of talks. The union held a Zoom call of 30-40 players and reacted angrily with a rejection. Both sides said they were leaving town, and there was no date scheduled for bargaining to resume.

At 5:07 p.m. of the lockout's 90th day, Manfred declared the opposite of play ball!

"Against that backdrop of growing revenues and record profits for owners of the league," Clark said, "players seek and deserve nothing more than fundamental fairness."

Baseball's ninth work stoppage will be the fourth causing regular-season games to be canceled, leaving ballparks quiet from Fenway Park to Dodger Stadium.

Caught in the crossfire of the money fight, players said they would only discuss — but not commit to — possible on-field changes that Manfred says are needed, such as pitch clocks and the elimination of defensive shifts. An expanded postseason was another casualty — for now.

"Manfred gotta go," tweeted Chicago Cubs pitcher Marcus Stroman.

The bulk of fan ire on social media was aimed at Manfred, who was spotted practicing his golf swing between bargaining sessions by an Associated Press photographer Tuesday. Others were upset that Manfred was laughing and jovial with reporters at his news conference announcing the cancellation.

"Have no clue how he has the ability to laugh about anything right now," Los Angeles Angels pitcher Michael Lorenzen tweeted. "Mind is blown."

Players are angry payrolls decreased by 4% from 2015 through last year and many teams jettisoned a portion of high-priced veteran journeymen in favor of lower-priced youth.

"The game has suffered damage for a while now. ... The game has been manipulated," Clark said. "The value inherent and how players are respected and viewed has changed. Players have been commoditized, monetized in a way that is really hard to explain."

Some clubs gave up on competing in the short term to better position themselves for future seasons.

"We have been screaming for years about competition issues," Miller said.

The sport will be upended by its second shortened season in three years following a 2020 schedule cut to 60 games because of the pandemic. The disruption will create another issue if 15 days are wiped out and stars such as Shohei Ohtani, Pete Alonso, Jake Cronenworth and Jonathan India would be delayed an extra year from free agency.

Players would lose $20.5 million in salary for each day of the season that is canceled, according to a study by the AP, and the 30 teams would lose large sums that are harder to pin down.

The first 86 games of the 1973 season were canceled by a strike over pension negotiations, the 1981 season was fractured by a 50-day midseason strike over free agency compensation rules that canceled 713 games, and a strike that started in August 1994 over management's attempt to gain a salary cap canceled the final 669 regular-season games and the World Series. It also led to a three-week delay of the 1995 season, when schedules were cut from 162 games to 144.

The most contentious proposals involve luxury tax thresholds, the size of a new bonus pool for pre-arbitration players and minimum salaries.

MLB proposed raising the tax threshold from $210 million to $220 million in each of the next three seasons, $224 million in 2025 and $230 million in 2026.

"We have a payroll disparity problem," Manfred said, "and to weaken the only mechanism in the agreement that's designed to promote some semblance of competitive balance is just something that I don't think the club group is prepared to do right now."

Players asked for $238 million this year, $244 million in 2023, $250 million in 2024, $256 million in 2025 and $263 million in 2026.

"We're seeing it act as a salary cap," Scherzer said. "The San Diego Padres have the higher payroll than the New York Yankees."

MLB offered $25 million annually for a new bonus pool for pre-arbitration players, and the union $85 million this year, with $5 million yearly increases.

MLB BRIEFS

Yankees hire Hensley Meulens as assistant hitting coach

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Yankees have hired Hensley Meulens as assistant hitting coach after the crosstown Mets poached Eric Chávez from the same position last month.

The Yankees announced the hiring Monday night. Meulens played for the franchise from 1989-93 at the start of a seven-year major league career, then won three World Series titles over 10 seasons as a bench coach and hitting coach for the San Francisco Giants. His most recent big league job was as bench coach for the Mets in 2020.

The Yankees hired Chávez in November as one of two assistants to new hitting coach Dillon Lawson. A few weeks later, the Mets hired the 17-year big leaguer to be their primary hitting coach. The Yankees knew Chávez might take the promotion when they hired him.

The 54-year-old Meulens interviewed for the Yankees manager job in 2017, but the club gave the job to current manager Aaron Boone.

A seven-year major league veteran from Curacao, Meulens managed Team Netherlands at the 2013 and 2017 World Baseball Classics and also was on the coaching staff for the national team at the 2004 Olympics.

Source: Mets hire first female director in baseball ops

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Mets have hired Elizabeth Benn as director of major league operations, making her the franchise's highest-ranking female baseball operations employee ever, according to a person with knowledge of the hiring.

The person confirmed Benn's hiring to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday because the Mets had not announced it.

Benn has worked for Major League Baseball since finishing a master's degree in philosophy at Columbia in 2017. She's had roles in youth programs, labor relations and baseball operations with the league.

Several women hold prominent roles in front offices across the male-dominated sport, including Miami Marlins general manager Kim Ng. The crosstown Yankees have had two women serve as assistant general managers in Ng and Jean Afterman.

The Mets are shaking their front office for the second straight offseason, a series of moves that included the brief tenure of Jared Porter as general manager following the 2020 season. Porter was fired over sexually explicit text messages he had sent to a female reporter in 2016 while working for the Chicago Cubs.

Billy Eppler was hired as general manager in November. His front office now has women working in analytics, player performance and minor league operations, but none have held the director title given to Benn. New York also hired Gretchen Aucoin as a minor league coach this offseason, making her the team's first on-field female coach.

Benn has been an adjunct lecturer at Lehman College and is also a right-handed pitcher who was the first woman to play in the New York City Metro Baseball League, a weekend rec league that includes many former college players.

Bank of Guam donates $5K to NMC

As part of its commitment to higher education, Bank of Guam recently donated $5,000 to the Northern Marianas College. The donation was made as part of the NMC 2022 Golf Open which is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022.

"We are proud to help the Northern Marianas College further its mission of helping CNMI residents improve their quality of life through educational advancement and professional development," said Marcie Tomokane, vice president/CNMI regional manager of Bank of Guam.

Proceeds from this year's tournament will go to helping the college fund critical expenses, including the recovery of NMC's facilities, equipment, supplies, and other items destroyed by the Super Typhoon Yutu. The college has already completed the demolition of the damaged buildings, and is now moving forward with the next step of the construction of new facilities.

NMC

Bank of Guam recently donated $5,000 to the Northern Marianas College, in support of NMC's upcoming golf open on March 19, 2022 at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. In photo is NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, Bank of Guam representative Charmaine Hofschneider, and BOG assistant vice president/operations manager Tania David, and NMC employees and students.

"Bank of Guam's generosity has enabled many organizations in the CNMI, including the Northern Marianas College, to carry out important goals and objectives," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, said. "We are thankful for the company's long standing support."

NMC's Golf Open will be held on the east course of the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. Showtime is at 6am, and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights (low gross and low net) will each receive $500, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively. Hole-in-one prizes also include a brand new 2022 Civic Sport Hatchback from Joeten Motors, a brand new 2022 Hyundai Kona N-Line from Triple J Motors, a brand new 2022 Toyota Camry from Atkins Kroll Saipan, and $5,000 from McDonald's.

The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meals, and much more.

Registration for this year's tournament is closed as the maximum number of players has been reached. Those who have not registered to play but would like to be placed on a player wait list can contact 237-6780.

The college is asking companies, organizations, or individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post-secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please call 237-6780 or email carla.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Tritons advance to next round, Tridents finish basketball tourney 1-2

TRITON ATHLETICS

Matthew Santos drives the ball for the Tritons in an elimination game against Team Humble at the "Take It 2 the South Part 2" tournament on March 1 at the Talofofo Gym.

The University of Guam Triton Men's Basketball Team is the only team from UOG advancing to the next round of the "Take It 2 the South Part 2" tournament. The Tritons secured their spot by defeating Team Humble 57-39 in an elimination game Tuesday night. The Tridents co-ed basketball club team was eliminated from the tournament after a 53-46 loss to Team Acdavate on Tuesday at the Talofofo Gym.

The Tritons

UOG started strong by taking an eight-point lead in the early minutes of the game. Although the Tritons struggled with rebounding and scoring inside shots, they maintained their lead throughout the first half and led 22-14 at halftime.

Team Humble found it challenging to make a good run in the second half, while the Tritons kept a solid 10-point lead for most of the final quarter. UOG put Team Humble away with a final surge at the end — winning by 18 points with a final score of 57-39.

Matthew Santos led the Tritons with 18 points and was the only player from UOG to score double digits in the game.

The Tritons have a 2-2 record in the tournament and will play again at 7 p.m. tonight against the Just-Shoot-It basketball club. If the Tritons defeat Team Just-Shoot-It, they will take on Team Wu Tang at 9 p.m. tonight for a spot in the finals.

The Tridents

Team Acdavate took control early and led 20-7 at the 10-minute mark of the first half. The Tridents made a run and closed the gap to four points, but Team Acdavate had another surge at the end of the first period and led 27-19 at halftime.

During the second half, the Tridents stayed close, only trailing by three to five points. UOG gained momentum in the final quarter and led by one point, 43-42, with less than four minutes on the clock. With only two minutes left in the game, the score was tied 44-44.

Team Acdavate scored nine points at the end and defeated the Tridents with a final score of 53-46. The Tridents were led by Nicolas Pangelinan with 20 points and Ike Solomon with 19 points.

The Tridents finished the tournament with a 1-2 record and ended their co-ed season with a 3-3 total record in two tournaments.

All UOG games will be recorded and posted on the Triton Athletics YouTube channel. Fans can also tune into the Triton Sports Zone video podcast to stay up to date with the latest athletics news, watch exclusive athlete interviews, and learn about upcoming events and games. The podcast episodes are live at 6pm. every Thursday on the Triton Athletics Facebook channel. ***(PR)***

BIG

From Page 20

We all know that it's not gonna be an easy fight but I will be really prepared for this one."

Diaz said his ward has improved a lot since coming to the mainland to train for the March 19 B2 Fighting Series 152 bout.

"He's doing good. He's very heavy in his feet from his last fight so we got him really light now. We actually made him moving better with his feet. He's using his legs more with kicks and stuff. He's doing a lot better," he said.

Diaz said he used to train Steele and the Cincinnati, Ohio fighter is more of a wrestler than a stand-up fighter.

"I know him and I used to help him with his fights. He's a good dude. He's just a wrestler so we have to keep the fight to going to the ground with him and actually beat him standing up."

He said Fitial is currently sharpening his grappling skills by training with Four Seasons' jiu-jitsu brown-belter and some wrestlers from Midway College.

"We've got them working with him too just in case Dom tries to take him down or something and he'll know how to frame out and keep from going to the ground. If he goes to the ground where he's going to position at," he said.

Asked about the matchup, Diaz said the 6'3" Fitial will be towering over Steele who's only 5'10."

"He's going to be a lot bigger. Dom is just 5'10" but Kelvin has become faster. I haven't seen Dom in three or four years so I don't know how it's gonna be like who's faster than who. But Kelvin is certainly going to be a lot stronger than Dom."

Fitial is sponsored by Four Seasons Mixed Martial Arts Gym, Victory Lap Clothing, and Shine Like a Diamond Detail.

MHS

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the mixed doubles, Quidato and Hong outclassed Salcedo and Feng, 21-9, 21-13, while Tang and Abigael Robles needed three games in the singles play to slip past Erwin Aguirre 13-21, 21-20, 21-17, and 21-20, 15-21, 21-12, respectively.

Versus Saipan Southern, Quidato and Hong delivered anew for MHS 1 in singles play, while the doubles victories came from Antonio and Lubao (boys), Punzalan and Tang (mixed), and Reyes and Custodio.

Meanwhile, SIS triumphed over Saipan Southern and Tinian in similar scores, 12-3.

Lina Tsukagoshi swept Tinian's Isa Long in the girls singles, 21-2, 21-10, while Matthew Berline also took only two games to beat Ali in the boys singles, 21-6, 21-7. Berline also prevailed in the boys doubles with Andy Kim as they topped Ali and Santos, 21-13, 21-7, while Kim partnered with Tsukagoshi in the mixed doubles to win over Saim and Gloria Santos, 21-7, 21-12. With the victory secured, SIS forfeited the girls doubles match.

The Geckos also took the first four games—boys and girls singles and boys and mixed doubles— in its duel against Saipan Southern to seal the victory before giving the girls doubles win to the Manta Rays. SIS used the same roster to earn the easy win over Saipan Southern.

In other results, SSHS defeated Tinian, 11-4, and MHS 2, 8-7.

CORRY

From Page 20

riding his Yamaha YZ250F during last Sunday's Marianas Racing Association competition.

"I had a lot of fun yesterday. I was just trying to have fun and because the track conditions weren't the best I was more focused on not falling," he said.

Pangelinan said he was also excited that MRA added the Intermediate Class to its divisions at the start of the 2022 season.

"I'm glad that they introduced the new Intermediate Class because it gives a chance for new riders to take over from the Novice Class."

Pangelinan said he's been only riding for a little over a year and got hook into the sport by his father, Glen.

"My dad had introduced me to the sport when I was younger but the MRA wasn't brought back yet and in the recent year my parents got me my first bike and my love for the sport continues to grow every day."

He also extended his thanks to sponsors Ericco Racing, Pokka, Marianas Native, as well as his family and friends.

In the Peewee ATV Class, Keoni Rosario took the checkered flag by winning both heats for 50 points. Rockson Cabrera was second with 44 points, while Angel Ray Cabrera completed the Top 3 with 38 points.

Theresa Borja topped the Mini ATV Class by also going 2-for-2 for 50 points. She was followed by Franchesca Yumul with 42 points with third place going to Kassidy Camacho who finished with 38 points.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	37	23	.617	—
Boston	36	27	.571	2½
Toronto	33	27	.550	4
Brooklyn	32	30	.516	6
New York	25	36	.410	12½

Southeast Division

Miami	41	21	.661	—
Atlanta	29	31	.483	11
Charlotte	30	33	.476	11½
Washington	27	33	.450	13
Orlando	15	47	.242	26

Central Division

Chicago	39	23	.629	—
Milwaukee	37	25	.597	2
Cleveland	36	25	.590	2½
Indiana	21	42	.333	18½
Detroit	15	46	.246	23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	43	20	.683	—
Dallas	36	25	.590	6
New Orleans	25	36	.410	17
San Antonio	24	38	.387	18½
Houston	15	45	.250	26½

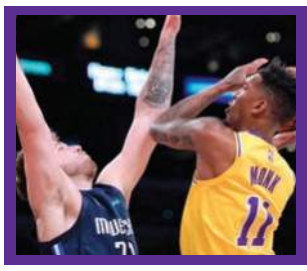
Northwest Division

Utah	38	22	.633	—
Denver	36	25	.590	2½
Minnesota	33	29	.532	6
Portland	25	36	.410	13½
Oklahoma City	19	42	.311	19½

Pacific Division

Phoenix	49	12	.803	—
Golden State	43	18	.705	6
L.A. Clippers	32	31	.508	18
L.A. Lakers	27	33	.450	21½
Sacramento	23	40	.365	27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mavericks blow big lead, rally to hold off Lakers, 109-104

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Sports

Bank of Guam donates $5K to NMC

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MHS 1, SIS undefeated in HS badminton

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School 1 and Saipan International School won their opening week matches in the TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League last Feb. 19 at the TSL Sports Complex.

MHS 1 swept its first three games for a 40-5 record and the early lead in the six-team league. SIS defeated two teams for a 24-6 record. Saipan Southern High School (25-35), MHS 2 (9-21), and Tinian Junior Senior High School (7-23) were the other teams that debuted in the Northern Marianas Badminton Association and CNMI Public School System-organized competition, while Kagman High School is expected to join the field this weekend.

MHS 1 swept Tinian, 15-0, and also dominated MHS 2, 13-2, and Saipan Southern, 12-3, for a strong start in the high school division.

Seiyul Hong and Paulo Quidato won their singles matches over Tinian's Sophia Su, 21-15, 21-10, and Morshedur Anan, 21-4, 21-9, to lead the Dolphins 1's lopsided victory. In the men's doubles, Ian Lubao and Joe Antonio also swept Tinian's Saim Ali and Joseph Santos, 21-14, 21-8, while MHS notched its fourth sweep when Angielesya Punzalan and Angel Reyes topped Isa Long and Clarize Rodriguez in the girls doubles, 21-13, 21-17. Pony Tang and Arisa Custodio completed MHS 1's domination of Tinian after beating Troy Cabarles, Denise Miguel, 21-6, 21-10.

Against their fellow Dolphins, MHS 1 also took the short route to victory in the girls and boys doubles as Lubao and Antonio prevailed over MHS 2's Kyle Salcedo and Jerome Manzon, 21-8, 21-10, and Custodio and Hong defeated Shuxuan Zhang and Angie Feng, 21-16, 21-9. In

See MHS on **Page 19**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Marianas High School player gets ready to receive a serve from a Tinian High School player during their game in the TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League last Feb. 19 at the TSL Sports Complex.

'Big Hit' sets MMA return on March 19

By MARK RABAGO
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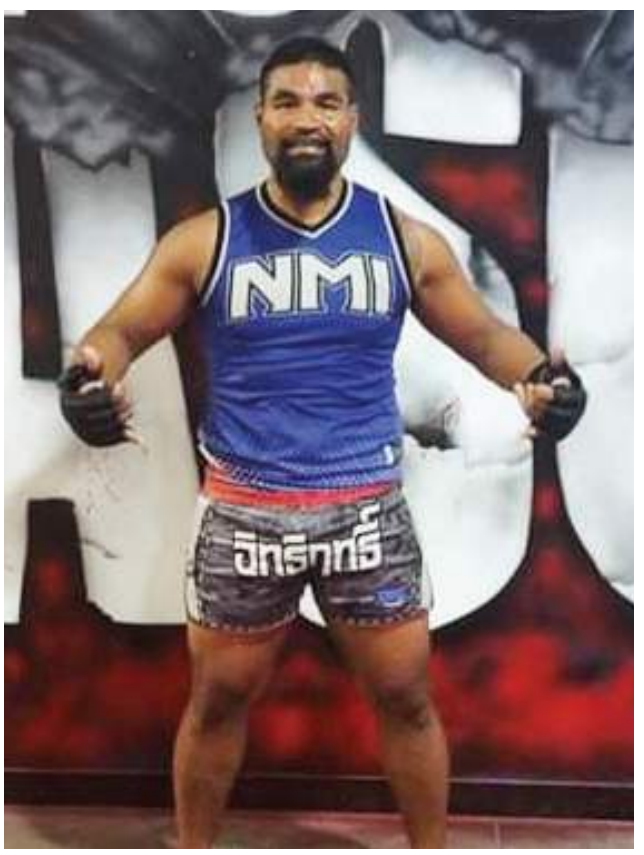
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kelvin "Big Hit" Fitial returns to mixed martial arts action when he takes on Dom Steele in a heavyweight professional bout of B2 Fighting Series 152 on March 19 at the Summersville Arena & Conference Center in Summersville, West Virginia.

The 38-year-old Fitial pits his 15-10-1-1 win-loss-draw-no contest record against the 32-year-old Steele's 18-12 win-loss record. Both are coming off losses in their last fights with the former losing to Rakim Cleveland via knockout in the 4:48 mark of the first round of their Aug. 21, 2021 bout, while the latter hasn't been inside the eight-sides since a doctor stoppage against Teddy Ash at the 5-minute mark of their March 1, 2019 fight.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kelvin "Big Hit" Fitial takes a pose during a break at Four Seasons Martial Arts Gym where he is for his B2 Fighting Series 152 bout against Dom Steele on March 19.

Fitial, who has been training at Four Seasons Martial Arts Gym in Kentucky since early this year, said he's in tip-top shape and has lost 10-15 lbs.

"I would like to thank first God for always paving my way. Then my wife and my son, Kelvin Jr., for the support they've been giving me while I'm here, my gym and coaches for getting me ready for this fight, and all my sponsors," he said.

Fitial added his training for his March 19 fight against Steele is so far looking good and he's focusing more on his stand-up technique and trying to improve his wrestling skills with the help of Four Seasons coach Raymond Diaz.

"The next fight we're looking to have it standing but if it goes to the ground we'll be ready but our main focus right now is our stand-up. My opponent is a great wrestler and a good fighter.

See BIG on **Page 19**

Corry perfection in Intermediate Class

MICHAEL JORNAL
Corry Pangelinan in action in the Intermediate Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Youth was served in the Intermediate Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track after 17-year-old Corry Pangelinan won the division.

The Marianas High School student won both heats of the February race to finish with 50 points. Henry Camacho Jr. finished second with 42 points, while Tristan Sablan equaled Camacho's 42 points but lost to him in the second heat to settle for third place.

Pangelinan said words cannot fully describe his feelings

See CORRY on **Page 19**